

SENATE, No. 2894

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Requires DHS to conduct survey on SNAP experience.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning the evaluation of the New Jersey Supplemental
2 Nutrition Assistance Program application process and
3 supplementing Title 44 of the Revised Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

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8 1. a. The Department of Human Services shall conduct a
9 survey of county welfare agencies for the purpose of evaluating the
10 SNAP experience of applicants and beneficiaries. The survey shall
11 include, at a minimum, questions concerning the applicant's
12 experience navigating the SNAP application process, any
13 difficulties the applicant encountered in the application process, the
14 availability of consumer support at the county welfare agency, and
15 how well the applicant's questions and concerns were addressed by
16 staff at the county welfare agency.

17 b. The purpose of the survey shall be to:

18 (1) identify the strengths and weaknesses of each county welfare
19 agency in processing SNAP applications;

20 (2) formulate trainings or strategies to improve the processing of
21 SNAP applications; and

22 (3) assess which counties require additional resource and staff
23 support.

24 c. The survey developed by the department shall be distributed
25 to SNAP applicants at each county welfare agency.

26 d. The commissioner shall make survey data collected pursuant
27 to this section available through the Department of Human
28 Services' Internet website in a user-friendly format, and shall, no
29 later than 18 months after the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.)
30 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), submit a report to the
31 Legislature, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
32 19.1), concerning the results of the survey and the commissioner's
33 recommendations for legislation or other appropriate action.

34 e. As used in this section:

35 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

36 "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

37 "SNAP" means the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition
38 Assistance Program, established pursuant to the federal "Food and
39 Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.)
40 and P.L.1998, c.32 (C.44:10-79 et seq.).

41
42 2. The Commissioner of Health, pursuant to the
43 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
44 seq.), shall promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the
45 provisions of this act.

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47 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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3 This bill requires the Department of Human Services to conduct
4 a survey for the purpose of evaluating the New Jersey Supplemental
5 Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) experience of applicants and
6 beneficiaries. The survey is to include, at a minimum, questions
7 concerning the applicant's experience navigating the SNAP
8 application process, any difficulties the applicant encountered in the
9 application process, the availability of consumer support at the
10 county welfare agency, and how well the applicant's questions and
11 concerns were addressed by staff at the county welfare agency.
12 The purpose of the survey is to identify the strengths and
13 weaknesses of each county welfare agency in processing SNAP
14 applications; formulate trainings or strategies to improve the
15 processing of SNAP applications; and assess which counties require
16 additional resource and staff support. The survey will be
17 distributed to SNAP applicants at each county welfare agency.
18 Survey data is to be made available through the Department of
19 Human Services' website, and the commissioner is to submit a
20 report to the Legislature concerning the results of the survey and
21 any recommendations for legislation or other action.