

[First Reprint]

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 biennial survey of SNAP experience.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on December 6, 2021, with amendments.



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:

7
 8 1. a. The Department of Human Services shall conduct a
 9 'biennial' survey of **'[county welfare agencies] SNAP applicants and**
 10 **beneficiaries'** for the purpose of evaluating the SNAP experience of
 11 'the' applicants and beneficiaries. The 'biennial' survey shall
 12 include, at a minimum, questions concerning the applicant's 'or
 13 beneficiary's' experience 'in' navigating the SNAP application
 14 process, any difficulties the applicant 'or beneficiary' encountered in
 15 the application process, the availability of consumer support at the
 16 county welfare agency, and how well the applicant's 'or beneficiary's'
 17 questions and concerns were addressed by staff at the county welfare
 18 agency.

19 b. The purpose of the 'biennial' survey shall be to:

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

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

24 (3) assess which counties require additional resource and staff
 25 support.

26 c. **'[The] When conducting the biennial'** survey **'[developed**
 27 **by] required pursuant to this section,'** the department shall **'[be]**
 28 **ensure the survey is'** distributed to 'all' SNAP applicants at each
 29 county welfare agency 'throughout the duration of the survey period'.

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

39 e. As used in this section:

40 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

41 "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

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

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
 not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SHH committee amendments adopted December 6, 2021.

1 2. The Commissioner of '【Health】 Human Services'¹ , pursuant
2 to the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
3 seq.), shall promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the
4 provisions of this act.

5
6 3. This act shall take effect immediately.