



**VETO MESSAGE:** No

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:** Yes

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** Yes

Murphy signs bills aimed at addressing hunger into law  
Associated Press State Wire: New Jersey (NJ) - May 9, 2019

Murphy signs bills to help fight hunger  
Times, The (Trenton, NJ) - May 10, 2019

RWH/JA

P.L. 2019, CHAPTER 90, *approved May 9, 2019*  
Assembly, No. 4703 (*Third Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning emergency food services and supplementing  
2 Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

3  
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6  
7 1. a. The <sup>2</sup>State<sup>2</sup> Chief Technology Officer of the <sup>2</sup>New  
8 Jersey<sup>2</sup> Office of Information Technology <sup>2</sup>[in, but not of, the  
9 Department of the Treasury]<sup>2</sup>, in consultation with the Commissioner  
10 of Human Services and the <sup>2</sup>[Commissioner] Secretary<sup>2</sup> of  
11 Agriculture, shall establish <sup>1</sup>and maintain<sup>1</sup> an “Anti-Hunger Link” on  
12 the official website of every State executive department. The link  
13 shall direct the website user to a dedicated Internet <sup>1</sup>[page listing]  
14 webpage that lists<sup>1</sup> all of the emergency food programs in the State,  
15 including, but not limited to, emergency meal providers, food pantries,  
16 soup kitchens, child and senior feeding programs, faith-based anti-  
17 hunger initiatives, and other food programs.

18 b. The <sup>2</sup>State<sup>2</sup> Chief Technology Officer of the <sup>2</sup>New Jersey<sup>2</sup>  
19 Office of Information Technology <sup>2</sup>[in, but not of, the Department of  
20 the Treasury]<sup>2</sup>, in consultation with the <sup>1</sup>[Commissioner]  
21 <sup>2</sup>[Commissioners<sup>1</sup>] Commissioner<sup>2</sup> of Human Services and <sup>1</sup>[the  
22 Commissioner of]<sup>1</sup> <sup>3</sup>the<sup>3</sup> <sup>2</sup>Secretary of<sup>2</sup> Agriculture, shall <sup>1</sup>establish  
23 and<sup>1</sup> maintain <sup>1</sup>[and update]<sup>1</sup> the <sup>1</sup>[“Anti-Hunger Link” and]  
24 dedicated<sup>1</sup> emergency food program <sup>1</sup>[website established pursuant  
25 to] webpage described in<sup>1</sup> subsection a. of this section<sup>1</sup>; however, as  
26 deemed by the <sup>3</sup>State<sup>3</sup> Chief Technology Officer to be appropriate, in  
27 consultation with the <sup>2</sup>[Commissioners] Commissioner<sup>2</sup> of Human  
28 Services and <sup>2</sup>the Secretary of<sup>2</sup> Agriculture, the dedicated emergency  
29 food program webpage may be established, hosted, and maintained by  
30 a nonprofit organization, pursuant to an agreement that is entered into  
31 between the Department of the Treasury and the nonprofit  
32 organization.

33 c. The “Anti-Hunger Link” and dedicated emergency food  
34 program webpage established under this section shall be regularly  
35 updated,<sup>1</sup> on a schedule to be determined by the <sup>3</sup>State<sup>3</sup> Chief  
36 Technology Officer.

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:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AHU committee amendments adopted December 3, 2018.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted December 10, 2018.

<sup>3</sup>Senate SHH committee amendments adopted January 31, 2019.

1       2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh  
2 month next following enactment, except that the <sup>2</sup>State<sup>2</sup> Chief  
3 Technology Officer of the <sup>2</sup>New Jersey<sup>2</sup> Office of Information  
4 Technology may take any anticipatory administrative action in  
5 advance as shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.

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10       Requires Chief Technology Officer to establish “Anti-Hunger  
11 Link” for all State websites, providing information on emergency  
12 food services.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 4703

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 29, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman JAMEL C. HOLLEY**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Assemblyman JAMES J. KENNEDY**

**District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires Chief Technology Officer to establish “Anti-Hunger Link” for all State websites, providing information on emergency food services.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning emergency food services and supplementing  
2 Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. The Chief Technology Officer of the Office of  
8 Information Technology in, but not of, the Department of the  
9 Treasury, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human  
10 Services and the Commissioner of Agriculture, shall establish an  
11 “Anti-Hunger Link” on the official website of every State executive  
12 department. The link shall direct the website user to a dedicated  
13 Internet page listing all of the emergency food programs in the  
14 State, including, but not limited to, emergency meal providers, food  
15 pantries, soup kitchens, child and senior feeding programs, faith-  
16 based anti-hunger initiatives, and other food programs.

17 b. The Chief Technology Officer of the Office of Information  
18 Technology in, but not of, the Department of the Treasury, in  
19 consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services and the  
20 Commissioner of Agriculture, shall maintain and update the “Anti-  
21 Hunger Link” and emergency food program website established  
22 pursuant to subsection a. of this section on a schedule to be  
23 determined by the Chief Technology Officer.

24

25 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh  
26 month next following enactment, except that the Chief Technology  
27 Officer of the Office of Information Technology may take any  
28 anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be necessary  
29 for the implementation of this act.

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#### STATEMENT

33

34 This bill requires the Chief Technology Officer of the Office of  
35 Information Technology, in consultation with the Commissioner of  
36 Human Services and the Commissioner of Agriculture, to establish  
37 an “Anti-Hunger Link” on the official website of every State  
38 executive department. The link will direct the website user to a  
39 dedicated Internet page listing all of the emergency food programs  
40 in the State, including but not limited to emergency meal providers,  
41 food pantries, soup kitchens, child and senior feeding programs,  
42 faith-based anti-hunger initiatives, and other food programs.

43 Under the bill, the Chief Technology Officer of the Office of  
44 Information Technology, in consultation with the Commissioner of  
45 Human Services and the Commissioner of Agriculture, would  
46 maintain and update the “Anti-Hunger Link” and emergency food  
47 program website established in the bill on a schedule to be  
48 determined by the Chief Technology Officer.

# ASSEMBLY HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **ASSEMBLY, No. 4703**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: NOVEMBER 29, 2018

The Assembly Human Services Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4703.

As amended by the committee, this bill would require the Chief Technology Officer of the Office of Information Technology, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services and the Commissioner of Agriculture, to establish and maintain an “Anti-Hunger Link” on the official website of every State executive department. The link will direct the website user to a dedicated Internet page that lists all of the emergency food programs in the State, including but not limited to emergency meal providers, food pantries, soup kitchens, child and senior feeding programs, faith-based anti-hunger initiatives, and other food programs.

The Chief Technology Officer of the Office of Information Technology, in consultation with the Commissioners of Human Services and Agriculture, would be required to establish and maintain the dedicated emergency food program webpage described in the bill. However, as deemed by the Chief Technology Officer to be appropriate, in consultation with the Commissioners of Human Services and Agriculture, the dedicated webpage may be established, hosted, and maintained by a third-party nonprofit organization.

The bill would require the “Anti-Hunger Link” and emergency food program webpage to be regularly updated, in accordance with a schedule to be determined by the Chief Technology Officer.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to clarify that the dedicated emergency food program webpage may be established, hosted, and maintained by a nonprofit organization, pursuant to a formal agreement with the Department of the Treasury, as deemed by the Chief Technology Officer, in consultation with the Commissioners of Human Services and Agriculture, to be appropriate.

The amendments also rephrase some of the language in the bill, in order to improve clarity.

# ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

## ASSEMBLY, No. 4703

with committee amendments

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 10, 2018

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4703 (1R), with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill would require the State Chief Technology Officer of the New Jersey Office of Information Technology, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture, to establish and maintain an “Anti-Hunger Link” on the official website of every State executive department. The link will direct the website user to a dedicated Internet page that lists all of the emergency food programs in the State, including but not limited to emergency meal providers, food pantries, soup kitchens, child and senior feeding programs, faith-based anti-hunger initiatives, and other food programs.

The Chief Technology Officer, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture, would be required to establish and maintain the dedicated emergency food program webpage described in the bill. However, as deemed by the Chief Technology Officer to be appropriate, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture, the dedicated webpage may be established, hosted, and maintained by a third-party nonprofit organization.

The bill would require the “Anti-Hunger Link” and emergency food program webpage to be regularly updated, in accordance with a schedule to be determined by the Chief Technology Officer.

### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments correct references to the State Chief Technology Officer, the New Jersey Office of Information Technology, and the Secretary of Agriculture.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) finds that this bill may result in the following indeterminate increases in State expenditures: 1) a one-time outlay for the development of a State Internet webpage dedicated to listing all emergency food programs in the State,

including resources for researching and compiling a comprehensive list of these programs; 2) a one-time outlay to establish an “Anti-Hunger Link” on the official website of every State executive department; and 3) recurring costs for maintaining and regularly updating the Internet webpage as well as the “Anti-Hunger Link.”

The Office of Information Technology (OIT) and the Departments of Agriculture and Human Services may be able to implement the bill within their existing resources.

If the OIT contracts with a nonprofit organization to establish, host, and maintain the emergency food program webpage, the State may incur additional annual expenses.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR  
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[Second Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4703**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JANUARY 31, 2019

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4703 (2R).

As amended by the committee, this bill would require the State Chief Technology Officer of the New Jersey Office of Information Technology, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture, to establish an “Anti-Hunger Link” on the official website of every State executive department. The link will direct the website user to a dedicated Internet page that lists all of the emergency food programs in the State, including, but not limited to, emergency meal providers, food pantries, soup kitchens, child and senior feeding programs, faith-based anti-hunger initiatives, and other food programs.

The State Chief Technology Officer, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture, will be required to establish and maintain the “Anti-Hunger Link.” However, if deemed appropriate by the State Chief Technology Officer, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture, the link and webpage may be established, hosted, and maintained by a nonprofit organization pursuant to an agreement between the nonprofit organization and the Department of Treasury. The “Anti-Hunger Link” and the dedicated emergency food website are to be regularly updated pursuant to a schedule to be determined by the State Chief Technology Officer.

As reported by the committee with amendments, Assembly Bill No. 4703 (2R) is identical to Senate Bill No. 3234 (1R), which was also reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to make certain technical corrections to add an omitted article and update certain references to the State Chief Technology Officer.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Second Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4703**

## **STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE**

DATED: DECEMBER 19, 2018

### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Requires Chief Technology Officer to establish "Anti-Hunger Link" for all State websites, providing information on emergency food services.
- Type of Impact:** Potential annual State expenditure increase.
- Agencies Affected:** Office of Information Technology, Department of Agriculture, Department of Human Services.

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Annual</u></b>
<b>Potential State Expenditure Increase</b>	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) finds that this bill may result in the following indeterminate increases in State expenditures: 1) a one-time outlay for the development of a State Internet webpage dedicated to listing all emergency food programs in the State, including resources for researching and compiling a comprehensive list of these programs; 2) a one-time outlay to establish an "Anti-Hunger Link" on the official website of every State executive department; and 3) recurring costs for maintaining and regularly updating the Internet webpage as well as the "Anti-Hunger Link."
- The Office of Information Technology (OIT) and the Departments of Agriculture and Human Services may be able to implement the bill without additional expenditures using existing staff.
- If the OIT contracts with a nonprofit organization to establish, host, and maintain the emergency food program webpage, the State may incur additional annual expenses.

## **BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill requires the OIT, in consultation with the Departments of Human Services and Agriculture, to establish, maintain, and regularly update an “Anti-Hunger Link” on the official website of every State executive department. The link will direct the website user to a dedicated Internet webpage that lists all emergency food programs in the State. As determined by the three State agencies, the emergency food program webpage is to be established, maintained, and regularly updated by either the OIT, in consultation with the Departments of Human Services and Agriculture, or by a contracted nonprofit organization.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS estimates that this bill may result in the following indeterminate State expenditure increases: 1) a one-time outlay for the development of a State Internet webpage dedicated to listing all emergency food programs in the State, including resources for researching and compiling a comprehensive list of these programs; 2) a one-time outlay to establish an “Anti-Hunger Link” on the official website of every State executive department; and 3) recurring costs for maintaining and regularly updating the Internet webpage as well as the “Anti-Hunger Link.”

The OLS notes, however, that the OIT and the Departments of Agriculture and Human Services may be able to fulfill the requirements of the bill using existing staff at no additional cost. It is also possible that State research costs could be minimized by leveraging existing community partnerships and programs that disseminate information on emergency food programs.

The emergency food program webpage may be operated by State agency staff, but the bill also authorizes the OIT to outsource the function to a nonprofit organization. If so, the State would likely incur additional annual service charges in accordance with the terms of the contract. Given the flexibility the bill affords in establishing the terms of any potential contract, the OLS cannot quantify the potential cost of entering into such a contract.

The OLS adds that the creation of the webpage may increase enrollment in government-sponsored food assistance programs if the webpage includes links to program applications. If enrollment were to grow as a result of this bill, the State and local administrative bodies, such as county boards of social services, would incur increased annual benefit and program administration expenditures, and additional federal revenue from federally-funded food assistance programs such as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The OLS, however, lacks the informational basis for predicting the effects of the bill on participation levels in government-sponsored food assistance programs.

*Section: Human Services*

*Analyst: Christopher Myles  
Assistant Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Frank W. Haines III  
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Third Reprint]

## ASSEMBLY, No. 4703

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

DATED: FEBRUARY 22, 2019

#### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Requires Chief Technology Officer to establish "Anti-Hunger Link" for all State websites, providing information on emergency food services.
- Type of Impact:** Potential annual State expenditure increase.
- Agencies Affected:** Office of Information Technology, Department of Agriculture, Department of Human Services.

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Annual</u></b>
<b>Potential State Expenditure Increase</b>	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) finds that this bill may result in the following indeterminate increases in State expenditures: 1) a one-time outlay for the development of a State Internet webpage dedicated to listing all emergency food programs in the State, including resources for researching and compiling a comprehensive list of these programs; 2) a one-time outlay to establish an "Anti-Hunger Link" on the official website of every State executive department; and 3) recurring costs for maintaining and regularly updating the Internet webpage as well as the "Anti-Hunger Link."
- The New Jersey Office of Information Technology (OIT) and the Departments of Agriculture and Human Services may be able to implement the bill without additional expenditures using existing staff.
- If the OIT contracts with a nonprofit organization to establish, host, and maintain the emergency food program webpage, the State may incur additional annual expenses.

#### BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires the OIT, in consultation with the Departments of Human Services and Agriculture, to establish, maintain, and regularly update an "Anti-Hunger Link" on the

official website of every State executive department. The link will direct the website user to a dedicated Internet webpage that lists all emergency food programs in the State. As determined by the three State agencies, the emergency food program webpage is to be established, maintained, and regularly updated by either the OIT, in consultation with the Departments of Human Services and Agriculture, or by a contracted nonprofit organization.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS estimates that this bill may result in the following indeterminate State expenditure increases: 1) a one-time outlay for the development of a State Internet webpage dedicated to listing all emergency food programs in the State, including resources for researching and compiling a comprehensive list of these programs; 2) a one-time outlay to establish an “Anti-Hunger Link” on the official website of every State executive department; and 3) recurring costs for maintaining and regularly updating the Internet webpage as well as the “Anti-Hunger Link.”

The OLS notes, however, that the OIT and the Departments of Agriculture and Human Services may be able to fulfill the requirements of the bill using existing staff at no additional cost. It is also possible that State research costs could be minimized by leveraging existing community partnerships and programs that disseminate information on emergency food programs.

The emergency food program webpage may be operated by State agency staff, but the bill also authorizes the OIT to outsource the function to a nonprofit organization. If so, the State would likely incur additional annual service charges in accordance with the terms of the contract. Given the flexibility the bill affords in establishing the terms of any potential contract, the OLS cannot quantify the potential cost of entering into such a contract.

The OLS adds that the creation of the webpage may increase enrollment in government-sponsored food assistance programs if the webpage includes links to program applications. If enrollment were to grow as a result of this bill, the State and local administrative bodies, such as county boards of social services, would incur increased annual benefit and program administration expenditures, and additional federal revenue from federally-funded food assistance programs such as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The OLS, however, lacks the informational basis for predicting the effects of the bill on participation levels in government-sponsored food assistance programs.

*Section:* Human Services

*Analyst:* Sarah Schmidt  
Senior Research Analyst

*Approved:* Frank W. Haines III  
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

# SENATE, No. 3234

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 26, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JAMES BEACH**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Senator NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ**

**District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Greenstein, T.Kean, Singleton and Madden**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires Chief Technology Officer to establish “Anti-Hunger Link” for all State websites, providing information on emergency food services.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/1/2019)**

1 AN ACT concerning emergency food services and supplementing  
2 Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. The Chief Technology Officer of the Office of  
8 Information Technology in, but not of, the Department of the  
9 Treasury, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human  
10 Services and the Commissioner of Agriculture, shall establish an  
11 “Anti-Hunger Link” on the official website of every State executive  
12 department. The link shall direct the website user to a dedicated  
13 Internet page listing all of the emergency food programs in the  
14 State, including, but not limited to, emergency meal providers, food  
15 pantries, soup kitchens, child and senior feeding programs, faith-  
16 based anti-hunger initiatives, and other food programs.

17 b. The Chief Technology Officer of the Office of Information  
18 Technology in, but not of, the Department of the Treasury, in  
19 consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services and the  
20 Commissioner of Agriculture, shall maintain and update the “Anti-  
21 Hunger Link” and emergency food program website established  
22 pursuant to subsection a. of this section on a schedule to be  
23 determined by the Chief Technology Officer.

24

25 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh  
26 month next following enactment, except that the Chief Technology  
27 Officer of the Office of Information Technology may take any  
28 anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be necessary  
29 for the implementation of this act.

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STATEMENT

33

34 This bill requires the Chief Technology Officer of the Office of  
35 Information Technology, in consultation with the Commissioner of  
36 Human Services and the Commissioner of Agriculture, to establish  
37 an “Anti-Hunger Link” on the official website of every State  
38 executive department. The link will direct the website user to a  
39 dedicated Internet page listing all of the emergency food programs  
40 in the State, including but not limited to emergency meal providers,  
41 food pantries, soup kitchens, child and senior feeding programs,  
42 faith-based anti-hunger initiatives, and other food programs.

43 Under the bill, the Chief Technology Officer of the Office of  
44 Information Technology, in consultation with the Commissioner of  
45 Human Services and the Commissioner of Agriculture, would  
46 maintain and update the “Anti-Hunger Link” and emergency food  
47 program website established in the bill on a schedule to be  
48 determined by the Chief Technology Officer.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR  
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
**SENATE, No. 3234**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JANUARY 31, 2019

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3234.

As amended by the committee, this bill would require the State Chief Technology Officer of the New Jersey Office of Information Technology, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture, to establish an “Anti-Hunger Link” on the official website of every State executive department. The link will direct the website user to a dedicated Internet page that lists all of the emergency food programs in the State, including, but not limited to, emergency meal providers, food pantries, soup kitchens, child and senior feeding programs, faith-based anti-hunger initiatives, and other food programs.

The State Chief Technology Officer, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture, will be required to establish and maintain the “Anti-Hunger Link.” However, if deemed appropriate by the State Chief Technology Officer, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture, the link and webpage may be established, hosted, and maintained by a nonprofit organization pursuant to an agreement between the nonprofit organization and the Department of Treasury. The “Anti-Hunger Link” and the dedicated emergency food website are to be regularly updated pursuant to a schedule to be determined by the State Chief Technology Officer.

As reported by the committee with amendments, Senate Bill No. 3234 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4703 (3R), which was also reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to clarify that the dedicated emergency food program webpage may be established, hosted, and maintained by a nonprofit organization pursuant to an agreement with the Department of Treasury, if deemed appropriate by the State Chief

Technology Officer in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture.

The committee amended the bill to make certain technical corrections, including updating references to the Secretary of Agriculture, the State Chief Technology Officer, and the New Jersey Office of Information Technology.



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## Newark, N.J.

# Governor Murphy Signs Legislation to Fight Hunger in New Jersey

05/9/2019

**TRENTON** – Alongside Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, bill sponsors and advocates, Governor Phil Murphy today signed a legislative package into law to fight hunger in New Jersey.

“In the richest nation in the world, it is a moral failure that so many of our fellow New Jerseyans don’t have enough food to eat,” **said Governor Phil Murphy**. “This comprehensive approach will allow us to leverage New Jersey’s strengths to better provide for our residents, so families can provide for themselves and their children. I applaud Speaker Coughlin for his leadership in this effort, as well as Senate President Sweeney and all of the sponsors for their hard work and commitment to eliminating food insecurity in New Jersey.”

The legislation signed today addresses New Jersey’s hunger crisis by coordinating efforts between government agencies, including the Department of Agriculture, the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, and the Office of the Chief Innovation Officer. The legislation confronts food deserts in New Jersey communities and hunger among students at the state’s colleges and universities, spreads information about resources through state websites, and discourages food waste, among other efforts.

Assembly Speaker Coughlin and the bills’ sponsors also spoke in support of this legislation:

“When I became Speaker, I vowed to make fighting hunger and promoting healthy eating in New Jersey a priority,” **said Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin**. “Today, we take an important step forward to address the reduction of food waste, food deserts, and food insecurity. By making these bills law, we will help farmers and help students enrolled in public institutions obtain an education without going hungry. No family should have to choose between paying their bills and eating a nutritious meal. With these new laws in place, it is my hope that those same families will no longer have to decide between those options.”

“People living in urban areas around the state often do not have access to affordable fresh produce, making it harder for them to make healthy choices. This not only impacts the food on their table each night but also the long term health of our most vulnerable communities,” **said Senate President Pro Tempore M. Teresa Ruiz**. “Piloting a program with schools or organizations to have weekly farmers markets will allow us to determine a viable long-term solution for food deserts.”

“People need to be made aware of just how much food we waste every single year,” **said Senator Bob Smith**. “The United States throws away about 30-40 percent of all food, which then ends up accounting for over 20 percent of all waste in our landfills. This is just absolutely unacceptable. There are much better alternatives for the extra food. We could donate extra food to food pantries or homeless shelters and compost the food which expires. There is no conceivable reason we should ever be wasting food.”

“Many college kids around the state do not know where their next meal is coming from,” **said Senator Sandra Cunningham**. “Students cannot get the most out of their classes if they are going hungry. By addressing food insecurity at state universities we will help our best and brightest to reach their full potential.”

“New Jersey has countless resources for individuals and families who are struggling with food insecurity, but it can be challenging to find the right program in your area,” **said Senator James Beach**. “This legislation will allow more people to take advantage of the services available and get the help they need.”

“The use and enhancement of technology will help us to improve the quality of service we provide to the hungry and the homeless in New Jersey,” **said Senator Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr.** “Enhancing the NJOneApp will put those services right at the fingertips of those in need.”

“This is part of a larger effort to put an end to hunger and to alleviate food insecurity – with approximately 10 percent of New Jersey’s residents don’t know where their next meal is coming from,” **said Senator Joe Cryan**. “This is a hidden crisis experienced by families, senior citizens, students, the working poor and others who struggle to put food on the table. While they go hungry, an estimated 40 percent of the food produced in America goes uneaten or tossed away. Large food retailers can play a significant role in waste reduction so that we can feed the hungry.”

“Every day, people in New Jersey go hungry while, at the same time, perfectly adequate food gets thrown in the trash,” **said Senator Vin Gopal**. “This should be unacceptable by any standard and I hope that today is at least a small step in closing the gap between the abundance of food we have and the people who need it most.”

“1 million New Jersey residents go to bed hungry,” **said Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez**. “Many of whom do not have the means or are simply unaware of the various programs, food providers and anti-hunger initiatives our state has to offer. By adding an ‘Anti-Hunger Link’ to multiple state websites, we hope to raise awareness and reach those in need of food assistance in an effort to create a completely hunger-free state.”

“Hunger does not discriminate,” **said Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly**. “It affects all types of people – from those living in small communities to those living on college campuses. College meal plans can be costly for many families and students, and this grant money will significantly help our hard-working students who are in need of food assistance while they are getting an education.”

“These statistics are alarming and quite frankly, sad. To know that so many adults and children throughout New Jersey are hungry each day is heartbreaking,” **said Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo**. “These statistics, however, are not just about numbers. They are about people who don’t have enough food. Through this law, we’ll be taking action by donating to our community’s food banks and pantries that are the safety nets for those who face food insecurity.”

“The responsibilities of farmers are so vast that they often lack the time or resources to learn about every program offered by the Department of Agriculture, which include taxation programs, food donations, anti-hunger initiatives, as well as other programs,” **said Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling**. “By creating a Farm Liaison who can assist and encourage farmers to enroll in these programs, we will expand access to food for hungry people across New Jersey, as well as ease some of the financial and physical burdens for our state’s farmers.”

“For many New Jersey residents, consuming a healthy diet is a matter of access to healthy food and the means to purchase it,” **said Assemblyman Adam Taliaferro**. “While families may want to eat well-balanced meals, finances are often an issue. In many instances, nutritious food can be costly.”

“Forty percent of the food produced in the United States ends up uneaten and tossed into the garbage each year,” **said Assemblywoman Linda Carter**. “As one in ten residents in New Jersey face food insecurity, more than 400 pounds of food per person is lost or wasted. It’s a shame, and we must figure out actionable steps to prevent and reduce food waste going forward.”

“We need answers,” **said Assemblyman Pedro Mejia**. “How do we reduce food waste effectively and dramatically in this state? A task force with the sole focus of finding ways to prevent food loss will help us meet our goals and become more responsible with food donations.”

#### **Assemblymembers Chiaravalloti, Spearman, and Mosquera released the following joint statement:**

“There are many resources available to New Jersey residents who are food insecure and suffering from severe

hunger, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance to Need Families (TANF) and General Assistance through Work First New Jersey; but it remains a challenge to connect people to those vital services. That's why improving the NJOneApp, which already offers a simple, convenient way for residents to see if they qualify for food assistance programs, is a crucial step towards ending hunger in New Jersey.

"Under this new law, the NJOneApp will be redesigned to include all state anti-hunger programs. Users will be able to easily browse all the resources available to them and choose which will work best for their family. No longer will residents be unsure of where to turn, who to ask, or what help exists in New Jersey; the answers would be found at the touch of a button on their cell phone.

"We are pleased the Governor and our colleagues in the Legislature have joined the fight against hunger by supporting this measure and we thank Speaker Coughlin for including it in his sweeping anti-hunger bill package. We look forward to taking the next step in helping families in need."

The following bills were signed into law:

- **A4702 "Hunger-Free Campus Act" (Wimberly, Jasey, Mukherji/Cunningham, Ruiz)** — Requires Secretary of Higher Education to establish grant program to address food insecurity among students enrolled in public institutions of higher education; appropriates \$1 million.
- **A4704 (Taliaferro, Murphy, Verrelli/Ruiz, Cunningham)** — Directs Department of Agriculture to establish food desert produce pilot program.
- **A4708 (Houghtaling, Andrzejczak/Space, Gopal, Kean)** — Establishes Farm Liaison in Department of Agriculture.
- **A4703 (Lopez, Holley, Kennedy/Beach, Cruz-Perez)** — Requires Chief Technology Officer to establish "Anti-Hunger Link" for all State websites, providing information on emergency food services.
- **A4705 (Carter, Benson, Mejia/Smith, Codey)** — Establishes New Jersey Food Waste Task Force to make recommendations concerning food waste in New Jersey.
- **A4707 (Tucker, Downey, Calabrese/Smtih, Singelton)** — Directs Department of Agriculture to establish public awareness campaign for food waste.
- **AJR172 (Downey, Johnson, Holley/Gopal)** — Designates Thursday of third week of September of each year as "Food Waste Prevention Day" in New Jersey.
- **AJR60 (DeAngelo, Lopez, Chiaravalloti/Ruiz, Cunningham)** —Designates November of each year as "Food Pantry Donation Month" in New Jersey.
- **AJR174 (Mejia, Benson, Quijano, Lopez/Cryan, Greenstein)** — Urges large food retailers in State to reduce food waste.
- **AJR175 (Chiaravalloti, Spearman, Mosequra/Diegnan, Singelton)** — Urges Chief Innovation Officer to prioritize enhancement of NJOneApp to include all State anti-hunger programs.

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# Governor Phil Murphy

# Statewide

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