



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:**

No

**VETO MESSAGE:**

No

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

Yes

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**REPORTS:**

No

**HEARINGS:**

No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:**

No

RH/CL

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 243, *approved September 30, 2021*  
Assembly, No. 2281 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning the participation of senior citizens in the New  
2 Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program 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 Commissioner of Human Services, to the maximum  
9 extent permissible under federal law, shall review and streamline  
10 the SNAP application process for senior citizens, as provided in this  
11 section. The goal of the streamlining process shall be to ensure that  
12 the number of senior SNAP participants either matches or exceeds  
13 <sup>1</sup>**the national average** New Jersey's overall SNAP participation  
14 rates<sup>1</sup>.

15 b. In streamlining the SNAP application process for seniors, as  
16 required by this section, the commissioner shall, at a minimum:

17 (1) develop and make available a simplified SNAP application  
18 form for use by seniors;

19 (2) provide for the increased sharing of data between the State's  
20 various social services programs and platforms; and

21 (3) authorize, and establish appropriate procedures to facilitate,  
22 the simultaneous or cross enrollment of eligible seniors in the  
23 Medicaid program and SNAP.

24 c. The Department of Human Services, working in consultation  
25 and cooperation with relevant senior citizen advocacy  
26 organizations, shall engage in comprehensive outreach efforts to  
27 ensure that all eligible seniors are made aware of their ability to  
28 apply for and obtain SNAP benefits through a streamlined and  
29 expedited process. At a minimum, the department shall provide  
30 outreach at all health care facilities, social service agencies that  
31 serve seniors in the State, and other organizations focused on food  
32 assistance, and shall use all available media, including print, radio,  
33 television, and the Internet, to inform residents on the availability of  
34 the streamlined SNAP application process established pursuant to  
35 this section.

36 d. The Commissioner of Human Services shall apply to the  
37 Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of

**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>Senate floor amendments adopted March 25, 2021.

1 Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement  
2 the provisions of this section.

3 e. As used in this section:

4 “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Human Services.

5 “Department” means the Department of Human Services”

6 “Medicaid program” means the State Medicaid program,  
7 established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.).

8 “Senior citizen” or “senior” means a person who is 60 years of  
9 age or older.

10 “SNAP” means the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition  
11 Assistance Program, established pursuant to the federal “Food and  
12 Nutrition Act of 2008,” Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.).

13

14 2. The Commissioner of Human Services shall adopt rules and  
15 regulations, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,”  
16 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to  
17 implement the provisions of this act.

18

19 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

20

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22

23

24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 Requires Commissioner of Human Services to streamline SNAP  
26 application process for senior citizens and conduct outreach  
regarding senior SNAP participation.

## CHAPTER 243

AN ACT concerning the participation of senior citizens in the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and supplementing Title 44 of the Revised Statutes.

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

C.44:10-81.3 Streamlining SNAP application for senior citizens.

1. a. The Commissioner of Human Services, to the maximum extent permissible under federal law, shall review and streamline the SNAP application process for senior citizens, as provided in this section. The goal of the streamlining process shall be to ensure that the number of senior SNAP participants either matches or exceeds New Jersey's overall SNAP participation rates.

b. In streamlining the SNAP application process for seniors, as required by this section, the commissioner shall, at a minimum:

(1) develop and make available a simplified SNAP application form for use by seniors;

(2) provide for the increased sharing of data between the State's various social services programs and platforms; and

(3) authorize, and establish appropriate procedures to facilitate, the simultaneous or cross enrollment of eligible seniors in the Medicaid program and SNAP.

c. The Department of Human Services, working in consultation and cooperation with relevant senior citizen advocacy organizations, shall engage in comprehensive outreach efforts to ensure that all eligible seniors are made aware of their ability to apply for and obtain SNAP benefits through a streamlined and expedited process. At a minimum, the department shall provide outreach at all health care facilities, social service agencies that serve seniors in the State, and other organizations focused on food assistance, and shall use all available media, including print, radio, television, and the Internet, to inform residents on the availability of the streamlined SNAP application process established pursuant to this section.

d. The Commissioner of Human Services shall apply to the Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement the provisions of this section.

e. As used in this section:

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

"Department" means the Department of Human Services.

"Medicaid program" means the State Medicaid program, established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.).

"Senior citizen" or "senior" means a person who is 60 years of age or older.

"SNAP" means the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.).

C.44:10-81.4 Rules, regulations.

2. The Commissioner of Human Services shall adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved September 30, 2021.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2281

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman JOHN ARMATO**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**Assemblyman VINCENT MAZZEO**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

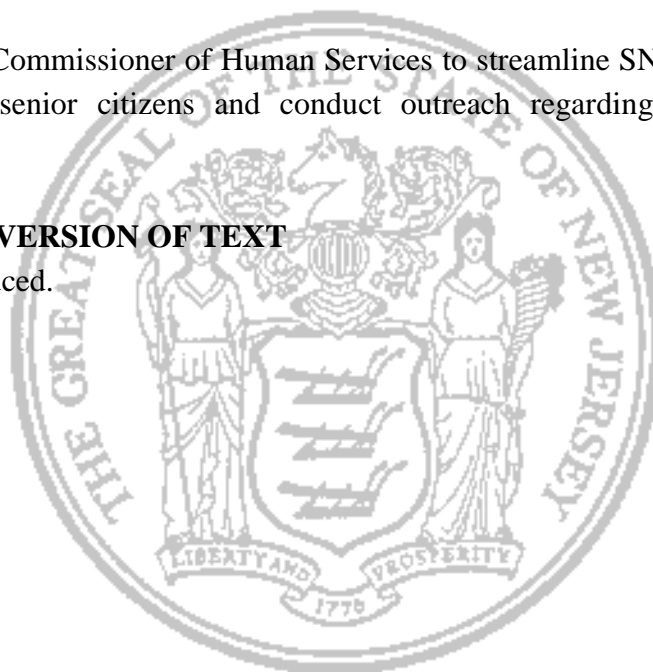
**Assemblywoman Timberlake, Assemblymen Benson, Houghtaling, Assemblywoman Downey, Assemblymen Holley, Danielsen, Assemblywomen Speight, Reynolds-Jackson, McKnight, Carter, Assemblyman Mejia, Assemblywomen Jimenez, Jasey, Assemblyman McKeon, Assemblywoman Swain, Assemblyman Tully and Assemblywoman Lopez**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires Commissioner of Human Services to streamline SNAP application process for senior citizens and conduct outreach regarding senior SNAP participation.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/29/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning the participation of senior citizens in the New  
2 Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program 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 Commissioner of Human Services, to the maximum  
9 extent permissible under federal law, shall review and streamline  
10 the SNAP application process for senior citizens, as provided in this  
11 section. The goal of the streamlining process shall be to ensure that  
12 the number of senior SNAP participants either matches or exceeds  
13 the national average.

14 b. In streamlining the SNAP application process for seniors, as  
15 required by this section, the commissioner shall, at a minimum:

16 (1) develop and make available a simplified SNAP application  
17 form for use by seniors;

18 (2) provide for the increased sharing of data between the State's  
19 various social services programs and platforms; and

20 (3) authorize, and establish appropriate procedures to facilitate,  
21 the simultaneous or cross enrollment of eligible seniors in the  
22 Medicaid program and SNAP.

23 c. The Department of Human Services, working in consultation  
24 and cooperation with relevant senior citizen advocacy  
25 organizations, shall engage in comprehensive outreach efforts to  
26 ensure that all eligible seniors are made aware of their ability to  
27 apply for and obtain SNAP benefits through a streamlined and  
28 expedited process. At a minimum, the department shall provide  
29 outreach at all health care facilities, social service agencies that  
30 serve seniors in the State, and other organizations focused on food  
31 assistance, and shall use all available media, including print, radio,  
32 television, and the Internet, to inform residents on the availability of  
33 the streamlined SNAP application process established pursuant to  
34 this section.

35 d. The Commissioner of Human Services shall apply to the  
36 Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of  
37 Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement  
38 the provisions of this section.

39 e. As used in this section:

40 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

41 "Department" means the Department of Human Services"

42 "Medicaid program" means the State Medicaid program,  
43 established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.).

44 "Senior citizen" or "senior" means a person who is 60 years of  
45 age or older.

46 "SNAP" means the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition  
47 Assistance Program, established pursuant to the federal "Food and  
48 Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.).

1       2. The Commissioner of Human Services shall adopt rules and  
2 regulations, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,”  
3 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to  
4 implement the provisions of this act.

5

6       3. This act shall take effect immediately.

7

8

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STATEMENT

10

11       This bill would require the Commissioner of Human Services to  
12 review and streamline the application process for senior citizens  
13 who wish to participate in the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition  
14 Assistance Program (SNAP), to the maximum extent permissible  
15 under federal law. The goal of the streamlining process would be to  
16 ensure that the number of senior SNAP participants either matches  
17 or exceeds the national average.

18       In streamlining the SNAP application process for seniors, the  
19 commissioner would be required to: 1) develop and make available  
20 a simplified SNAP application form for use by seniors; 2) provide  
21 for the increased sharing of data between the State’s various social  
22 services programs and platforms; and 3) authorize, and establish  
23 appropriate procedures to facilitate, the simultaneous or cross  
24 enrollment of eligible seniors in the State Medicaid program and  
25 SNAP.

26       The bill would also require the Department of Human Services to  
27 engage in comprehensive outreach efforts to ensure that all eligible  
28 seniors are made aware of their ability to apply for and obtain  
29 SNAP benefits through the streamlined and expedited processes  
30 established under the bill. The bill would require the department to  
31 work in consultation and cooperation with senior citizen advocacy  
32 organizations in performing this outreach. Finally, the bill would  
33 require the Commissioner of Human Services to apply to the Food  
34 and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of  
35 Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement  
36 the provisions of the bill.

# ASSEMBLY AGING AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### ASSEMBLY, No. 2281

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 5, 2020

The Assembly Aging and Senior Services Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2281.

This bill would require the Commissioner of Human Services to review and streamline the application process for senior citizens who wish to participate in the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), to the maximum extent permissible under federal law. The goal of the streamlining process would be to ensure that the number of senior SNAP participants either matches or exceeds the national average.

In streamlining the SNAP application process for seniors, the commissioner would be required to: 1) develop and make available a simplified SNAP application form for use by seniors; 2) provide for the increased sharing of data between the State's various social services programs and platforms; and 3) authorize, and establish appropriate procedures to facilitate, the simultaneous or cross enrollment of eligible seniors in the State Medicaid program and SNAP.

The bill would also require the Department of Human Services to engage in comprehensive outreach efforts to ensure that all eligible seniors are made aware of their ability to apply for and obtain SNAP benefits through the streamlined and expedited processes established under the bill. The bill would require the department to work in consultation and cooperation with senior citizen advocacy organizations in performing this outreach. Finally, the bill would require the Commissioner of Human Services to apply to the Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement the provisions of the bill.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR  
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2281**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 9, 2021

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2281.

This bill requires the Commissioner of Human Services to review and streamline the application process for senior citizens who wish to participate in the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), to the maximum extent permissible under federal law. The goal of the streamlining process will be to ensure that the number of senior SNAP participants either matches or exceeds the national average.

In streamlining the SNAP application process for seniors, the commissioner will be required to: 1) develop and make available a simplified SNAP application form for use by seniors; 2) provide for the increased sharing of data between the State's various social services programs and platforms; and 3) authorize, and establish appropriate procedures to facilitate, the simultaneous or cross enrollment of eligible seniors in the State Medicaid program and SNAP.

The bill also requires the Department of Human Services to engage in comprehensive outreach efforts to ensure that all eligible seniors are made aware of their ability to apply for and obtain SNAP benefits through the streamlined and expedited processes established under the bill. The bill requires the department to work in consultation and cooperation with senior citizen advocacy organizations in performing this outreach. Finally, the bill requires the Commissioner of Human Services to apply to the Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of Agriculture for any waivers or approvals as are necessary to implement the provisions of the bill.

As reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 2281 is identical to Senate Bill No. 1078, which was also reported by the committee on this date.

STATEMENT TO  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 2281**

with Senate Floor Amendments  
(Proposed by Senator GREENSTEIN)

ADOPTED: MARCH 25, 2021

This amendment stipulates the goal of streamlining the SNAP application process for seniors is to ensure that the number of senior SNAP participants either matches or exceeds New Jersey's overall SNAP participation rates instead of ensuring that the number of participants either matches or exceeds the national average, as originally provided in the bill.

# SENATE, No. 1078

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator Pou**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires Commissioner of Human Services to streamline SNAP application process for senior citizens and conduct outreach regarding senior SNAP participation.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/27/2020)**

1 AN ACT concerning the participation of senior citizens in the New  
2 Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program 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 Commissioner of Human Services, to the maximum  
9 extent permissible under federal law, shall review and streamline  
10 the SNAP application process for senior citizens, as provided in this  
11 section. The goal of the streamlining process shall be to ensure that  
12 the number of senior SNAP participants either matches or exceeds  
13 the national average.

14 b. In streamlining the SNAP application process for seniors, as  
15 required by this section, the commissioner shall, at a minimum:

16 (1) develop and make available a simplified SNAP application  
17 form for use by seniors;

18 (2) provide for the increased sharing of data between the State's  
19 various social services programs and platforms; and

20 (3) authorize, and establish appropriate procedures to facilitate,  
21 the simultaneous or cross enrollment of eligible seniors in the  
22 Medicaid program and SNAP.

23 c. The Department of Human Services, working in consultation  
24 and cooperation with relevant senior citizen advocacy  
25 organizations, shall engage in comprehensive outreach efforts to  
26 ensure that all eligible seniors are made aware of their ability to  
27 apply for and obtain SNAP benefits through a streamlined and  
28 expedited process. At a minimum, the department shall provide  
29 outreach at all health care facilities, social service agencies that  
30 serve seniors in the State, and other organizations focused on food  
31 assistance, and shall use all available media, including print, radio,  
32 television, and the Internet, to inform residents on the availability of  
33 the streamlined SNAP application process established pursuant to  
34 this section.

35 d. The Commissioner of Human Services shall apply to the  
36 Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of  
37 Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement  
38 the provisions of this section.

39 e. As used in this section:

40 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

41 "Department" means the Department of Human Services"

42 "Medicaid program" means the State Medicaid program,  
43 established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.).

44 "Senior citizen" or "senior" means a person who is 60 years of  
45 age or older.

46 "SNAP" means the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition  
47 Assistance Program, established pursuant to the federal "Food and  
48 Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.).

1       2. The Commissioner of Human Services shall adopt rules and  
2 regulations, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,”  
3 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to  
4 implement the provisions of this act.

5

6       3. This act shall take effect immediately.

7

8

9

STATEMENT

10

11       This bill would require the Commissioner of Human Services to  
12 review and streamline the application process for senior citizens  
13 who wish to participate in the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition  
14 Assistance Program (SNAP), to the maximum extent permissible  
15 under federal law. The goal of the streamlining process would be to  
16 ensure that the number of senior SNAP participants either matches  
17 or exceeds the national average.

18       In streamlining the SNAP application process for seniors, the  
19 commissioner would be required to: 1) develop and make available  
20 a simplified SNAP application form for use by seniors; 2) provide  
21 for the increased sharing of data between the State’s various social  
22 services programs and platforms; and 3) authorize, and establish  
23 appropriate procedures to facilitate, the simultaneous or cross  
24 enrollment of eligible seniors in the State Medicaid program and  
25 SNAP.

26       The bill would also require the Department of Human Services to  
27 engage in comprehensive outreach efforts to ensure that all eligible  
28 seniors are made aware of their ability to apply for and obtain  
29 SNAP benefits through the streamlined and expedited processes  
30 established under the bill. The bill would require the department to  
31 work in consultation and cooperation with senior citizen advocacy  
32 organizations in performing this outreach. Finally, the bill would  
33 require the Commissioner of Human Services to apply to the Food  
34 and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of  
35 Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement  
36 the provisions of the bill.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR  
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 1078**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 9, 2021

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1078.

This bill requires the Commissioner of Human Services to review and streamline the application process for senior citizens who wish to participate in the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), to the maximum extent permissible under federal law. The goal of the streamlining process will be to ensure that the number of senior SNAP participants either matches or exceeds the national average.

In streamlining the SNAP application process for seniors, the commissioner will be required to: 1) develop and make available a simplified SNAP application form for use by seniors; 2) provide for the increased sharing of data between the State's various social services programs and platforms; and 3) authorize, and establish appropriate procedures to facilitate, the simultaneous or cross enrollment of eligible seniors in the State Medicaid program and SNAP.

The bill also requires the Department of Human Services to engage in comprehensive outreach efforts to ensure that all eligible seniors are made aware of their ability to apply for and obtain SNAP benefits through the streamlined and expedited processes established under the bill. The bill requires the department to work in consultation and cooperation with senior citizen advocacy organizations in performing this outreach. Finally, the bill requires the Commissioner of Human Services to apply to the Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of Agriculture for any waivers or approvals as are necessary to implement the provisions of the bill.

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 1078 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2281, which was also reported by the committee on this date.

STATEMENT TO  
**SENATE, No. 1078**

with Senate Floor Amendments  
(Proposed by Senator GREENSTEIN)

ADOPTED: MARCH 25, 2021

This amendment stipulates the goal of streamlining the SNAP application process for seniors is to ensure that the number of senior SNAP participants either matches or exceeds New Jersey's overall SNAP participation rates instead of ensuring that the number of participants either matches or exceeds the national average, as originally provided in the bill.

# Governor Murphy Signs Legislative Package to Combat Food Insecurity in New Jersey

09/30/2021

**TRENTON** – During Hunger Action Month, Governor Phil Murphy today signed into law a comprehensive legislation package aimed at combatting food insecurity, reaffirming his commitment to end hunger in New Jersey. The six bills will commit to addressing hunger by expanding access to the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and its benefits, bolstering school meal programs, and establishing the Office of the Food Insecurity Advocate. Additionally, the Governor also signed A5690 which directs the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development to include information on SNAP on any materials pertaining to unemployment compensation benefits.

"It is unacceptable that so many of our most vulnerable people are going without enough food," **said Governor Murphy**. "With today's bill signings, we are continuing our ongoing commitment to end food insecurity in New Jersey by strengthening food assistance and providing support to communities across the state."

"Access to food is a fundamental human need and no one in our state should go hungry or have to skip a meal," **said Human Services Acting Commissioner Sarah Adelman**. "We are committed to improving access to SNAP, our country's first line of defense against hunger, so New Jerseyans have the food assistance they need. We are proud to take these additional steps to end hunger and achieve food security for New Jerseyans of all ages. I thank Governor Murphy for signing these important bills and applaud Speaker Coughlin and the leadership of our legislative partners and advocates. With these new laws, together we will move closer to accomplishing our shared goal of ensuring no one in New Jersey goes hungry."

"We place the highest value on children having access to meals," **said Secretary of Agriculture Douglas Fisher**. "The funding from these bills for the Summer Food Service Program, the Seamless Summer Option, and Breakfast After the Bell will provide consistent nutrition all year long."

"Like Governor Murphy, the New Jersey Department of Labor believes in a whole-of-government approach to assisting our residents in times of need, such as when they are unemployed," **said Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo**. "This new law will augment our ongoing efforts to link unemployment claimants to additional vital resources our state provides."

Governor Murphy signed the following bills into law:

**S3945/A5884 (Vitale, Madden/Coughlin, Mazzeo, Conaway, Wimberly)** Establishes Office of Food Insecurity Advocate.

**A2281/S1078 (Armato, Mazzeo, Vainieri Huttel/Greenstein, Turner)** Requires Commissioner of Human Services to streamline SNAP application process for senior citizens and conduct outreach regarding senior SNAP participation.

**A5880/S3941 (Coughlin, Armato, Verrelli, Wimberly/Vitale, Gopal)** Directs the Department of Human Services to develop mobile software for SNAP recipients; appropriates \$2 million.

**A5882/S3943 (Coughlin, Armato, Verrelli, Conaway/Vitale, Madden)** Establishes State supplement for federal summer food service program meals.

**A5883/S3944 (Schaer, Speight, Zwicker, Stanley/Ruiz, Turner)** Establishes State supplement for "breakfast after the bell" meals.

**A5690/S3772 (Greenwald, Conaway, Benson/Greenstein, Turner)** Requires the Department of Labor & Workforce Development to provide link to New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition

“Breakfast After the Bell is an essential tool for combatting food insecurity among school aged children. Now that students are allowed to eat in their classrooms, during the school day, more families can take advantage of free breakfast,” **said Senator Teresa Ruiz**. “Establishing a state supplement that will be funded annually guarantees provision and support for this critical program which ensures that students have the fuel they need to focus and succeed throughout their school day.”

“SNAP should be easily accessible for all recipients, many of whom will now be able to use mobile devices to keep up with their accounts and help them find retail stores nearby that participate in the program,” **said Senator Joe Vitale, Chair of the Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee**. “Streamlining access to SNAP benefits is a practical way forward in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and will allow recipients greater flexibility. Mobile-friendly software will make it easier for recipients to make changes, check balances and keep track of their benefits.”

“Making use of mobile-friendly software to allow for the distribution of SNAP benefits beyond the traditional beginning of the month window will ensure that recipients have access to the food items they need without having to worry about shortages,” **said Senator Vin Gopal**. “SNAP recipients will be able to shop at the grocery store stress-free throughout the month, and will also be able to keep track of the processing status of documents that is so important to the program.”

“The Summer Food Service Program’s goal is to provide nutritious meals and snacks to children in low-income areas during the summer months when school is not in session,” **said Senator Fred Madden**. “This bill will ensure that children will be able to continue to receive nutritious meals that they may not be able to access elsewhere outside of the traditional school year.”

“SNAP benefits have always been our first line of defense in fighting hunger,” **said Senator Shirley Turner**. “Making it easier for senior citizens and people who are out of work to apply for programs like SNAP helps to reduce food insecurity, lift our residents out of poverty, and enable them to spend more on groceries that will keep them healthy. Increasing our SNAP participation rates also brings more federal dollars to our state and helps pump more money into our local and state economies. Closing the gaps in SNAP participation is a win-win for New Jersey, our senior citizens, and our families.”

“SNAP is a great program and a huge asset to many of our residents struggling to make ends meet, and can be utilized in-store or online at ShopRite, Amazon, Walmart, the Fresh Grocer, and ALDI,” **said Senator Linda Greenstein**. “However, this program is vastly underutilized, leaving many qualifying individuals - especially our senior citizens and those seeking unemployment benefits - without the assistance they need. These laws will be a critical help in ensuring that all eligible individuals are receiving the services they need and deserve.”

Assistance Program on website and in emails concerning unemployment compensation benefits.

“Food security and access to proper nutrition are determining factors in every individual’s capacity to realize their full potential,” **said Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin**. “The legislation signed today ensures the food needs of our most vulnerable in New Jersey continue to be met and strengthens our delivery of SNAP benefits and school meals. Most significantly, by creating a Food Insecurity Advocate, we are going to be better equipped as a state to strategically coordinate our anti-hunger initiatives, so no family misses out on access to critical food aid.”

“Programs such as SNAP provide invaluable assistance to families who would otherwise have to wonder where their next meal will come from,” **said Assemblyman Vincent Armato**. “Modernizing access by providing mobile-friendly software would make it easier for New Jerseyans to view their SNAP case status, view their current benefits, request a replacement card, submit necessary documents, and more. A system that is easier to navigate is one that can ultimately help more residents. Additional funding will help schools achieve their goal of reaching as many hungry children as possible.”

"SNAP is an important program that provides food support to more than 800,000 New Jersey residents," **said Assemblyman Anthony Verrelli**. "Finding ways to make it simpler for residents to navigate this system will help ensure more families receive the critical assistance they need."

"Children who lack consistent access to nutritious food are more likely to experience physical, social and behavioral issues – including developmental impairments," **said Assemblyman Herb Conaway**. "It is our state's responsibility to maintain the health and well-being of our children by continuing to provide them with nutritious meals throughout the year."

"Every child in our state deserves to start their day with a healthy, nutritious breakfast – regardless of their parents' financial situation," **said Assemblyman Gary Schaer**. "Supplementing existing programs with additional support will help ensure every child gets the nutrition they need."

"Regular access to healthy meals is an important part of a child's development," **said Assemblywoman Shanique Speight**. "With more families facing economic hardship as we come out of this pandemic, it is essential we expand access to nutritious breakfasts for any child who needs them."

"Food insecurity surged throughout our state as a result of the pandemic, with an increase of 75 percent for New Jersey children," **said Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker**. "Those 365,000 children are counting on our state to help make sure they do not go hungry as their parents get back on their feet and recover from this pandemic."

"Trying to focus on school work and extracurricular activities are practically impossible for students who are doing so on an empty stomach," **said Assemblyman Sterley Stanley**. "It is vital to reduce food insecurity. Helping school districts supply meals to hungry students will improve their health and academic performance, providing them with what they need to succeed."

"Less than half of New Jersey residents 60 and older who are eligible for SNAP benefits use them. This legislation looks to increase senior participation by simplifying the application process, allowing seniors to apply for SNAP through multiple points of entry, and utilizing a comprehensive community outreach and public awareness campaign," **said Assemblymembers John Armato, Vincent Mazzeo, and Valerie Vainieri Huttel, in a joint statement**. "Taking these steps will increase the likelihood of seniors taking advantage of the SNAP benefits, so that they can maintain a healthy, nutritious diet. Access to SNAP benefits for many may also mean the difference between having food and going without."

"Without a steady income to rely on, many people who are out of work understandably struggle to put food on the table. When unemployment soared last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity drastically increased as well – with more than 1 million residents in need of assistance," **said Assemblymembers Louis Greenwald, Herb Conaway, and Daniel Benson, in a joint statement**. "Losing one's job is already a stressful and destabilizing experience without having to worry about where your family's next meal will come from. Including a link to the NJ SNAP website in unemployment-related communications from DOLWD is a simple and effective way to help spread the word about this program and make it easier for residents to access the benefits they need."

"These measures will go a long way toward reducing hunger in the Garden State, especially for the tens of thousands of children who face hunger every day," **said Adele LaTourette, Director of Hunger Free New Jersey**. "We applaud the Legislative leaders for advancing these important initiatives and Gov. Phil Murphy for supporting these measures. We look forward to working with the Murphy Administration to implement these changes."

"The Food Democracy Collaborative applauds Governor Murphy's and state lawmakers' leadership for streamlining and optimizing existing food access programs and advancing food equity for all New Jerseyans," **said Jeanine Cava, Co-Founder of the NJ Food Democracy Collaborative**. "These efforts help connect the dots and close gaps in food system governance which supports food security across the state. We look forward to working with our colleagues and partners in the state to connect more SNAP recipients to NJ's agricultural bounty in the months ahead."

“We welcome the signing of these bills which will strengthen access and coordination of food resources for our New Jerseyans in need and applaud the Governor and legislature for their continued focus on nourishing our neighbors,” **said Carlos Rodriguez, President and CEO, Community FoodBank of New Jersey.**