

30:1A-7

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2001 **CHAPTER:** 62
NJSA: 30:1A-7 (Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program)
BILL NO: S1591 (Substituted for A3044)

SPONSOR(S): Kyrillos and Palaia

DATE INTRODUCED: September 21, 2000

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Senior Issues and Community Services; Appropriations

SENATE: Budget and Appropriations

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** March 8, 2001

SENATE: December 4, 2000

DATE OF APPROVAL: April 19, 2001

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (Senate Committee Substitute enacted)

(Amendments during passage denoted by superscript numbers)

S1591

SPONSORS STATEMENT: (Begins on page 2 of original bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes 1/18/01
(Senior Iss.)

2/5/01 (Approp.)

SENATE: Yes

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

A3044

SPONSORS STATEMENT: (Begins on page 5 of original bill)	Yes
COMMITTEE STATEMENT: (Senior Iss.)	ASSEMBLY: Yes 1/18 01
	2/5/01 (Approp.)
	SENATE: No
FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS:	No
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:	No
VETO MESSAGE:	No
GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:	Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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HEARINGS:	No
NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:	No

SENATE, No. 1591

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
209th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 21, 2000

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH M. KYRILLOS, JR.

District 13 (Middlesex and Monmouth)

Senator JOSEPH A. PALAIA

District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Allocates up to \$10,000,000 in unexpended federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Family Funds for grants to food banks and similar agencies.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/22/2000)

1 **A SUPPLEMENT** to "An Act making appropriations for the support of
2 the State Government and the several public purposes for the fiscal
3 year ending June 30, 2001 and regulating the disbursement
4 thereof," approved June 30, 2000 (P.L. 2000, c.53).

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

8
9 1. Upon certification by the Director of the Division of Budget and
10 Accounting in the Department of the Treasury that federal funds to
11 support the expenditures listed below are available, the following
12 language is added on page 133:

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54 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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50 Economic Planning, Development and Security

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53 Economic Assistance and Security

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7550 Division of Family Development

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GRANTS-IN-AID

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STATEMENT

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This legislation would make available up to \$10 million in unexpended federal TANF funds for grants to food banks and similar agencies that provide food to needy persons and families. In order to receive these funds, food banks and similar agencies must file an application with the Commissioner of Human Services and the commissioner would determine which agencies would receive funds and the amount of funds each agency would receive.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR **SENATE, No. 1591**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 9, 2000

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably a committee substitute to Senate Bill No. 1591.

This substitute bill, the "New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program Act," establishes the New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program in the Department of Human Services. The purpose of the program is to

- < improve the health and nutritional status of State residents in need of food assistance,
- < supplement the efforts of emergency food programs in the State to reduce hunger, and
- < enable families and individuals to become food secure and self-sufficient.

Program goals. The Commissioner of Human Services is to establish the program in conjunction with the regional food banks in the State. The goals of the program are to:

- (1) enhance the accessibility and availability of safe, nutritious food and food-related resources;
- (2) develop and provide nutrition education programs;
- (3) assess the needs of persons requesting food assistance and hunger-related issues to ensure program funds are used effectively; and
- (4) increase the independence from emergency food assistance programs of those who rely on such assistance.

Program grants. The bill provides that the program will make grants to emergency food programs in the State that offer emergency food services, nutrition education, and referral or outreach services to other programs serving the same population. Grant recipients will be required to report quarterly to the Department of Human Services on the use of the grant funds.

Advisory committee. The bill establishes a 13-member Hunger Prevention Advisory Committee in the Department of Human Services to assist the commissioner in the implementation of the program and to oversee a needs assessment to be conducted by Rutgers University.

The advisory committee shall consist of:

- < the Secretary of Agriculture and the Commissioners of Human Services and Community Affairs, or their designees, *ex officio*, and

< ten public members appointed by the Governor who shall include: two representatives of emergency food programs in the State; two representatives of programs serving homeless individuals in the State; the Executive Directors of the County Welfare Directors Association of New Jersey, the Municipal Welfare Association of New Jersey and the Association for Children of New Jersey, or their designees; a nutritionist; and two members of the public who are knowledgeable about emergency food programs.

Needs assessment. To maximize available food resources in the State and ensure that limited food resources and State funding are allocated in the most effective and efficient manner, the bill directs the Commissioner of Human Services to contract with Rutgers University to conduct a Statewide needs assessment to:

- identify and quantify "lost" food in the State's food system, identify ways to minimize food spoilage, and develop a plan to "rescue" such food for transport to the State's emergency feeding programs;

- identify and quantify the need for emergency or supplemental feeding for families and individuals in the State;

- develop strategies for behaviorally focused educational outreach with at-risk families and individuals; and

- analyze nutritional sufficiencies and deficiencies in existing emergency food programs and assist in developing nutritionally complete, culturally acceptable diets.

The commissioner and the advisory committee will use the information obtained from the needs assessment in determining the future allocation of grant funds under the program.

Annual report. The bill directs the commissioner to report annually to the Governor and the Legislature on the activities of the program. The report shall include a listing of the grants awarded under the program, the number of persons served through the grants and such other information as the commissioner deems appropriate.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This substitute bill appropriates up to \$5,000,000 from unexpended federal temporary assistance to needy family (TANF) funds to the Department of Human Services to carry out the purposes of the legislation. Of this appropriation, the department shall allocate up to \$250,000 to fund the conduct of the needs assessment and up to \$4,750,000 to fund grants to emergency food programs in the State.

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE, No. 1591

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
209th LEGISLATURE

ADOPTED NOVEMBER 9, 2000

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH M. KYRILLOS, JR.
District 13 (Middlesex and Monmouth)
Senator JOSEPH A. PALAIA
District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Turner, Assemblymen Azzolina, Thompson, Gusciora, Greenwald,
Assemblywoman Previte, Assemblymen Arnone, Charles, Assemblywoman
Gill, Assemblymen Guear, Payne and Assemblywoman Watson Coleman

SYNOPSIS

"New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program Act;"
appropriates up to \$5,000,000 in unexpended federal TANF funds.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Substitute as adopted by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/9/2001)

1 **ANACT** concerning emergency food programs, supplementing Title 30
2 of the Revised Statutes and making an appropriation.

3

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

6

7 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "New Jersey
8 Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program Act."

9

10 2. There is established in the Department of Human Services, the
11 New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program.

12 The purpose of the program is to: improve the health and
13 nutritional status of State residents in need of food assistance,
14 supplement the efforts of emergency food programs in the State to
15 reduce hunger, and enable families and individuals to become food
16 secure and self-sufficient.

17 a. The Commissioner of Human Services shall establish the
18 program in conjunction with the regional food banks in the State.

19 b. The goals of the program are to:

20 (1) enhance the accessibility and availability of safe, nutritious
21 food and food-related resources;

22 (2) develop and provide comprehensive nutrition education
23 programs;

24 (3) periodically conduct assessments of the needs of persons
25 requesting food assistance and hunger-related issues to ensure
26 program funds are used effectively; and

27 (4) empower persons requesting food assistance or at risk of
28 needing food assistance to increase their independence from
29 emergency food assistance programs.

30

31 3. a. Within the limits of funds appropriated for the program and
32 such other funds as are made available to the program, the program
33 shall provide grants to emergency food programs in the State to carry
34 out the goals of the program.

35 An emergency food program shall submit an application for grant
36 funds to the Department of Human Services in a form and manner
37 prescribed by the Commissioner of Human Services. The
38 commissioner, in consultation with the Hunger Prevention Advisory
39 Committee established pursuant to section 4 of this act, shall award
40 grants to emergency food programs that:

41 (1) address an unmet need for emergency food services;

42 (2) offer services that meet the goals of the program, particularly
43 with respect to providing nutrition education services to persons in the
44 service area of the emergency food program;

45 (3) provide for referral or outreach services to other public and
46 private social services programs that serve the emergency food
47 program's target population;

1 (4) demonstrate culturally competent services, including
2 recognizing food preferences and traditions of the community, that are
3 appropriate to the target population of the emergency food program;
4 and

5 (5) demonstrate an ability to document how the grant funds are
6 used and to meet the reporting requirements of the program.

7 b. In addition to considering the criteria for awarding grants
8 provided in subsection a. of this section, upon completion of the needs
9 assessment conducted pursuant to section 5 of this act, the
10 commissioner and advisory committee shall take into consideration
11 the findings of the needs assessment in determining how grant funds
12 shall be allocated in the State.

13 c. Grant recipients shall report quarterly to the Department of
14 Human Services on the use of the grant funds, including the number
15 of persons served by the emergency food program, the type of services
16 received and such other information as required by the commissioner.
17

18 4. There is established a 13-member Hunger Prevention Advisory
19 Committee in the Department of Human Services. The advisory
20 committee shall assist the Commissioner of Human Services in the
21 implementation of the New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition
22 Assistance Program established pursuant to this act and shall oversee
23 the needs assessment that shall be conducted pursuant to section 5 of
24 this act.

25 a. The advisory committee shall consist of:

26 (1) the Secretary of Agriculture, the Commissioner of Human
27 Services, and the Commissioner of Community Affairs, or their
28 designees, who shall serve ex officio; and

29 (2) 10 public members appointed by the Governor who shall
30 include: two representatives of emergency food programs in the State;
31 two representatives of programs serving homeless individuals in the
32 State; the Executive Directors of the County Welfare Directors
33 Association of New Jersey, the Municipal Welfare Association of New
34 Jersey and the Association for Children of New Jersey, or their
35 designees; a nutritionist; and two members of the public who are
36 knowledgeable about emergency food programs. The public members
37 other than the executive directors shall serve during the term of office
38 of the Governor who shall have appointed them, at the pleasure of that
39 Governor.

40 b. Vacancies in the membership of the committee shall be filled in
41 the same manner provided for the original appointments.

42 c. The committee shall organize as soon as practicable following
43 the appointment of its members and shall select a chairperson and vice-
44 chairperson from among the members. The chairperson shall appoint
45 a secretary who need not be a member of the committee.

1 d. The committee shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail
2 itself of the services of the employees of any State, county or
3 municipal department, board, bureau, commission or agency as it may
4 require and as may be available to it for its purposes.

5
6 5. The Commissioner of Human Services shall contract with
7 Rutgers, the State University to conduct a Statewide needs assessment
8 to:

9 a. identify and quantify, at all steps in the State's food delivery
10 system, wholesome and nutritious food that goes to waste before it
11 can be made available to those in need of such food;

12 b. identify and quantify the need for emergency or supplemental
13 feeding for families and individuals in the State;

14 c. identify strategies and structures for minimizing spoilage of
15 food resources;

16 d. develop a fiscally judicious plan to secure food from loss to
17 deterioration or waste and to transport and apportion that food to
18 emergency feeding programs throughout the State;

19 e. develop strategies for behaviorally focused educational outreach
20 with at-risk families and individuals; and

21 f. analyze nutritional sufficiencies and deficiencies in existing
22 emergency food programs and develop solutions to generating
23 nutritionally complete, culturally acceptable diets.

24
25 6. The Commissioner of Human Services shall report annually to
26 the Governor and the Legislature on the activities of the program. The
27 report shall include a listing of the grants awarded under the program,
28 the number of persons served through the grants and such other
29 information as the commissioner deems appropriate.

30
31 7. Upon certification by the Director of the Division of Budget
32 and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury that federal funds
33 not to exceed \$5,000,000 are available to support the expenditure,
34 such funds are appropriated from unexpended federal Temporary
35 Assistance to Needy Family funds to the Department of Human
36 Services to carry out the purposes of this act.

37 Of this appropriation, the department shall allocate up to \$250,000
38 to conduct the needs assessment pursuant to section 5 of this act and
39 up to \$4,750,000 for the purpose of making grants to emergency food
40 programs in the State pursuant to section 3 of this act.

41
42 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

ASSEMBLY SENIOR ISSUES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE, No. 1591

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 18, 2001

The Assembly Senior Issues and Community Services Committee reports favorably Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1591.

This substitute, the "New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program Act," establishes the New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program in the Department of Human Services. The purpose of the program is to: improve the health and nutritional status of State residents in need of food assistance; supplement the efforts of emergency food programs in the State to reduce hunger; and enable families and individuals to become food secure and self-sufficient.

The Commissioner of Human Services is to establish the program in conjunction with the regional food banks in the State. The goals of the program are to:

- (1) enhance the accessibility and availability of safe, nutritious food and food-related resources;
- (2) develop and provide nutrition education programs;
- (3) assess the needs of persons requesting food assistance and hunger-related issues to ensure program funds are used effectively; and
- (4) increase the independence from emergency food assistance programs of those who rely on such assistance.

The substitute provides that the program will make grants to emergency food programs in the State that offer emergency food services, nutrition education, and referral or outreach services to other programs serving the same population. Grant recipients will be required to report quarterly to the Department of Human Services on the use of the grant funds.

The substitute establishes a 13-member Hunger Prevention Advisory Committee in the Department of Human Services to assist the commissioner in the implementation of the program and to oversee a needs assessment to be conducted by Rutgers University.

The advisory committee shall consist of:

- < the Secretary of Agriculture and the Commissioners of Human

Services and Community Affairs, or their designees, *ex officio*, and < ten public members appointed by the Governor who shall include: two representatives of emergency food programs in the State; two representatives of programs serving homeless individuals in the State; the Executive Directors of the County Welfare Directors Association of New Jersey, the Municipal Welfare Association of New Jersey and the Association for Children of New Jersey, or their designees; a nutritionist; and two members of the public who are knowledgeable about emergency food programs.

To maximize available food resources in the State and ensure that limited food resources and State funding are allocated in the most effective and efficient manner, the substitute directs the Commissioner of Human Services to contract with Rutgers University to conduct a Statewide needs assessment to:

- identify and quantify "lost" food in the State's food system, identify ways to minimize food spoilage, and develop a plan to "rescue" such food for transport to the State's emergency feeding programs;
- identify and quantify the need for emergency or supplemental feeding for families and individuals in the State;
- develop strategies for behaviorally focused educational outreach with at-risk families and individuals; and
- analyze nutritional sufficiencies and deficiencies in existing emergency food programs and assist in developing nutritionally complete, culturally acceptable diets.

The commissioner and the advisory committee will use the information obtained from the needs assessment in determining the future allocation of grant funds under the program.

The substitute directs the commissioner to report annually to the Governor and the Legislature on the activities of the program. The report shall include a listing of the grants awarded under the program, the number of persons served through the grants and such other information as the commissioner deems appropriate.

This substitute is identical to Assembly Bill No. 3044.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR **SENATE, No. 1591**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 5, 2001

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1591 (SCS).

Senate Bill No. 1591 (SCS), the "New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program Act," establishes the New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program in the Department of Human Services. The purpose of the program is to: improve the health and nutritional status of State residents in need of food assistance; supplement the efforts of emergency food programs in the State to reduce hunger; and enable families and individuals to become food secure and self-sufficient.

The Commissioner of Human Services is to establish the program in conjunction with the regional food banks in the State. The goals of the program are to:

- (1) enhance the accessibility and availability of safe, nutritious food and food-related resources;
- (2) develop and provide nutrition education programs;
- (3) assess the needs of persons requesting food assistance and hunger-related issues to ensure program funds are used effectively; and
- (4) increase the independence from emergency food assistance programs of those who rely on such assistance.

The bill provides that the program will make grants to emergency food programs in the State that offer emergency food services, nutrition education, and referral or outreach services to other programs serving the same population. Grant recipients will be required to report quarterly to the Department of Human Services on the use of the grant funds.

The bill establishes a 13-member Hunger Prevention Advisory Committee in the Department of Human Services to assist the commissioner in the implementation of the program and to oversee a needs assessment to be conducted by Rutgers University.

The advisory committee shall consist of:

- the Secretary of Agriculture and the Commissioners of Human Services and Community Affairs, or their designees; and
- 10 public members appointed by the Governor who shall include: two representatives of emergency food programs in the State; two

representatives of programs serving homeless individuals in the State; the Executive Directors of the County Welfare Directors Association of New Jersey, the Municipal Welfare Association of New Jersey and the Association for Children of New Jersey, or their designees; a nutritionist; and two members of the public who are knowledgeable about emergency food programs.

To maximize available food resources in the State and ensure that limited food resources and State funding are allocated in the most effective and efficient manner, the bill directs the Commissioner of Human Services to contract with Rutgers University to conduct a Statewide needs assessment to:

- identify and quantify "lost" food in the State's food system, identify ways to minimize food spoilage, and develop a plan to "rescue" such food for transport to the State's emergency feeding programs;
- identify and quantify the need for emergency or supplemental feeding for families and individuals in the State;
- develop strategies for behaviorally focused educational outreach with at-risk families and individuals; and
- analyze nutritional sufficiencies and deficiencies in existing emergency food programs and assist in developing nutritionally complete, culturally acceptable diets.

The commissioner and the advisory committee will use the information obtained from the needs assessment in determining the future allocation of grant funds under the program.

The bill directs the commissioner to report annually to the Governor and the Legislature on the activities of the program. The report shall include a listing of the grants awarded under the program, the number of persons served through the grants and such other information as the commissioner deems appropriate.

As reported, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 3044 as also reported by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill appropriates up to \$5,000,000 from unexpended federal temporary assistance to needy family (TANF) funds to the Department of Human Services to carry out the purposes of the legislation. Of this amount, the department shall allocate up to \$250,000 to conduct the needs assessment and up to \$4,750,000 to fund grants to emergency food programs in the State.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3044

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 209th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 11, 2000

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOSEPH AZZOLINA

District 13 (Middlesex and Monmouth)

Assemblyman SAMUEL D. THOMPSON

District 13 (Middlesex and Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Gusciora, Greenwald, Assemblywoman Previte,

Assemblymen Arnone, Charles, Assemblywoman Gill, Assemblymen

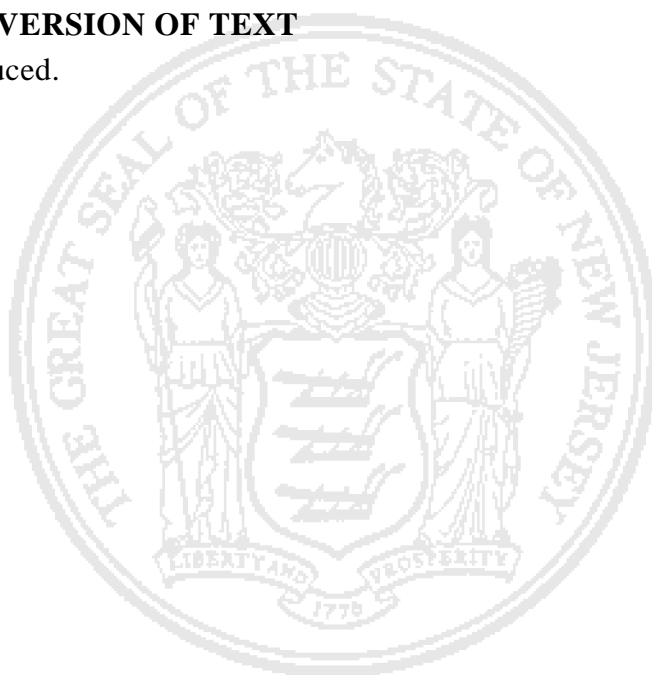
Guear, Payne and Assemblywoman Watson Coleman

SYNOPSIS

"New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program Act;" appropriates up to \$5,000,000 in unexpended federal TANF funds.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/9/2001)

1 ANACT concerning emergency food programs, supplementing Title 30
2 of the Revised Statutes and making an appropriation.

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

6
7 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "New Jersey
8 Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program Act."

9
10 2. There is established in the Department of Human Services, the
11 New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program.

12 The purpose of the program is to: improve the health and
13 nutritional status of State residents in need of food assistance,
14 supplement the efforts of emergency food programs in the State to
15 reduce hunger, and enable families and individuals to become food
16 secure and self-sufficient.

17 a. The Commissioner of Human Services shall establish the program
18 in conjunction with the regional food banks in the State.

19 b. The goals of the program are to:

20 (1) enhance the accessibility and availability of safe, nutritious food
21 and food-related resources;

22 (2) develop and provide comprehensive nutrition education
23 programs;

24 (3) periodically conduct assessments of the needs of persons
25 requesting food assistance and hunger-related issues to ensure
26 program funds are used effectively; and

27 (4) empower persons requesting food assistance or at risk of
28 needing food assistance to increase their independence from
29 emergency food assistance programs.

30

31 3. a. Within the limits of funds appropriated for the program and
32 such other funds as are made available to the program, the program
33 shall provide grants to emergency food programs in the State to carry
34 out the goals of the program.

35 An emergency food program shall submit an application for grant
36 funds to the Department of Human Services in a form and manner
37 prescribed by the Commissioner of Human Services. The
38 commissioner, in consultation with the Hunger Prevention Advisory
39 Committee established pursuant to section 4 of this act, shall award
40 grants to emergency food programs that:

41 (1) address an unmet need for emergency food services;

42 (2) offer services that meet the goals of the program, particularly
43 with respect to providing nutrition education services to persons in the
44 service area of the emergency food program;

45 (3) provide for referral or outreach services to other public and
46 private social services programs that serve the emergency food

1 program's target population;

2 (4) demonstrate culturally competent services, including
3 recognizing food preferences and traditions of the community, that are
4 appropriate to the target population of the emergency food program;
5 and

6 (5) demonstrate an ability to document how the grant funds are
7 used and to meet the reporting requirements of the program.

8 b. In addition to considering the criteria for awarding grants
9 provided in subsection a. of this section, upon completion of the needs
10 assessment conducted pursuant to section 5 of this act, the
11 commissioner and advisory committee shall take into consideration
12 the findings of the needs assessment in determining how grant funds
13 shall be allocated in the State.

14 c. Grant recipients shall report quarterly to the Department of
15 Human Services on the use of the grant funds, including the number
16 of persons served by the emergency food program, the type of services
17 received and such other information as required by the commissioner.

18

19 4. There is established a 13-member Hunger Prevention Advisory
20 Committee in the Department of Human Services. The advisory
21 committee shall assist the Commissioner of Human Services in the
22 implementation of the New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition
23 Assistance Program established pursuant to this act and shall oversee
24 the needs assessment that shall be conducted pursuant to section 5 of
25 this act.

26 a. The advisory committee shall consist of:

27 (1) the Secretary of Agriculture, the Commissioner of Human
28 Services, and the Commissioner of Community Affairs, or their
29 designees, who shall serve ex officio; and

30 (2) 10 public members appointed by the Governor who shall
31 include: two representatives of emergency food programs in the State;
32 two representatives of programs serving homeless individuals in the
33 State; the Executive Directors of the County Welfare Directors
34 Association of New Jersey, the Municipal Welfare Association of New
35 Jersey and the Association for Children of New Jersey, or their
36 designees; a nutritionist; and two members of the public who are
37 knowledgeable about emergency food programs. The public members
38 other than the executive directors shall serve during the term of office
39 of the Governor who shall have appointed them, at the pleasure of that
40 Governor.

41 b. Vacancies in the membership of the committee shall be filled in
42 the same manner provided for the original appointments.

43 c. The committee shall organize as soon as practicable following
44 the appointment of its members and shall select a chairperson and vice-
45 chairperson from among the members. The chairperson shall appoint
46 a secretary who need not be a member of the committee.

1 d. The committee shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail
2 itself of the services of the employees of any State, county or
3 municipal department, board, bureau, commission or agency as it may
4 require and as may be available to it for its purposes.

5
6 5. The Commissioner of Human Services shall contract with
7 Rutgers, the State University to conduct a Statewide needs assessment
8 to:

9 a. identify and quantify, at all steps in the State's food delivery
10 system, wholesome and nutritious food that goes to waste before it
11 can be made available to those in need of such food;

12 b. identify and quantify the need for emergency or supplemental
13 feeding for families and individuals in the State;

14 c. identify strategies and structures for minimizing spoilage of food
15 resources;

16 d. develop a fiscally judicious plan to secure food from loss to
17 deterioration or waste and to transport and apportion that food to
18 emergency feeding programs throughout the State;

19 e. develop strategies for behaviorally focused educational outreach
20 with at-risk families and individuals; and

21 f. analyze nutritional sufficiencies and deficiencies in existing
22 emergency food programs and develop solutions to generating
23 nutritionally complete, culturally acceptable diets.

24
25 6. The Commissioner of Human Services shall report annually to
26 the Governor and the Legislature on the activities of the program. The
27 report shall include a listing of the grants awarded under the program,
28 the number of persons served through the grants and such other
29 information as the commissioner deems appropriate.

30
31 7. Upon certification by the Director of the Division of Budget and
32 Accounting in the Department of the Treasury that federal funds not
33 to exceed \$5,000,000 are available to support the expenditure, such
34 funds are appropriated from unexpended federal Temporary Assistance
35 to Needy Family funds to the Department of Human Services to carry
36 out the purposes of this act.

37 Of this appropriation, the department shall allocate up to \$250,000
38 to conduct the needs assessment pursuant to section 5 of this act and
39 up to \$4,750,000 for the purpose of making grants to emergency food
40 programs in the State pursuant to section 3 of this act.

41
42 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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2

3 This bill, the "New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition
4 Assistance Program Act," establishes the New Jersey Hunger
5 Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program in the Department of
6 Human Services. The purpose of the program is to: improve the
7 health and nutritional status of State residents in need of food
8 assistance; supplement the efforts of emergency food programs in the
9 State to reduce hunger; and enable families and individuals to become
10 food secure and self-sufficient.

11 The Commissioner of Human Services is to establish the program
12 in conjunction with the regional food banks in the State. The goals of
13 the program are to:

14 (1) enhance the accessibility and availability of safe, nutritious food
15 and food-related resources;

16 (2) develop and provide nutrition education programs;

17 (3) assess the needs of persons requesting food assistance and
18 hunger-related issues to ensure program funds are used effectively; and

19 (4) increase the independence from emergency food assistance
20 programs of those who rely on such assistance.

21 The bill provides that the program will make grants to emergency
22 food programs in the State that offer emergency food services,
23 nutrition education, and referral or outreach services to other
24 programs serving the same population. Grant recipients will be
25 required to report quarterly to the Department of Human Services on
26 the use of the grant funds.

27 The bill establishes a 13-member Hunger Prevention Advisory
28 Committee in the Department of Human Services to assist the
29 commissioner in the implementation of the program and to oversee a
30 needs assessment to be conducted by Rutgers University. The
31 advisory committee shall consist of:

32 - the Secretary of Agriculture and the Commissioners of Human
33 Services and Community Affairs, or their designees; and

34 - 10 public members appointed by the Governor who shall include:
35 two representatives of emergency food programs in the State; two
36 representatives of programs serving homeless individuals in the State;
37 the Executive Directors of the County Welfare Directors Association
38 of New Jersey, the Municipal Welfare Association of New Jersey and
39 the Association for Children of New Jersey, or their designees; a
40 nutritionist; and two members of the public who are knowledgeable
41 about emergency food programs.

42 To maximize available food resources in the State and ensure that
43 limited food resources and State funding are allocated in the most
44 effective and efficient manner, the bill directs the Commissioner of
45 Human Services to contract with Rutgers University to conduct a
46 Statewide needs assessment to:

- 1 - identify and quantify "lost" food in the State's food system,
2 identify ways to minimize food spoilage, and develop a plan to
3 "rescue" such food for transport to the State's emergency feeding
4 programs;
5 - identify and quantify the need for emergency or supplemental
6 feeding for families and individuals in the State;
7 - develop strategies for behaviorally focused educational outreach
8 with at-risk families and individuals; and
9 - analyze nutritional sufficiencies and deficiencies in existing
10 emergency food programs and assist in developing nutritionally
11 complete, culturally acceptable diets.

12 The commissioner and the advisory committee will use the
13 information obtained from the needs assessment in determining the
14 future allocation of grant funds under the program.

15 The bill directs the commissioner to report annually to the
16 Governor and the Legislature on the activities of the program. The
17 report shall include a listing of the grants awarded under the program,
18 the number of persons served through the grants and such other
19 information as the commissioner deems appropriate.

20 This bill appropriates up to \$5,000,000 from unexpended federal
21 temporary assistance to needy family (TANF) funds to the Department
22 of Human Services. Of this appropriation, the department shall
23 allocate up to \$250,000 to fund the conduct of the needs assessment
24 and up to \$4,750,000 to fund grants to emergency food programs in
25 the State.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3044

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 5, 2001

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3044.

Assembly Bill No. 3044, the "New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program Act," establishes the New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program in the Department of Human Services. The purpose of the program is to: improve the health and nutritional status of State residents in need of food assistance; supplement the efforts of emergency food programs in the State to reduce hunger; and enable families and individuals to become food secure and self-sufficient.

The Commissioner of Human Services is to establish the program in conjunction with the regional food banks in the State. The goals of the program are to:

- (1) enhance the accessibility and availability of safe, nutritious food and food-related resources;
- (2) develop and provide nutrition education programs;
- (3) assess the needs of persons requesting food assistance and hunger-related issues to ensure program funds are used effectively; and
- (4) increase the independence from emergency food assistance programs of those who rely on such assistance.

The bill provides that the program will make grants to emergency food programs in the State that offer emergency food services, nutrition education, and referral or outreach services to other programs serving the same population. Grant recipients will be required to report quarterly to the Department of Human Services on the use of the grant funds.

The bill establishes a 13-member Hunger Prevention Advisory Committee in the Department of Human Services to assist the commissioner in the implementation of the program and to oversee a needs assessment to be conducted by Rutgers University.

The advisory committee shall consist of:

- the Secretary of Agriculture and the Commissioners of Human Services and Community Affairs, or their designees; and
- 10 public members appointed by the Governor who shall include: two representatives of emergency food programs in the State; two representatives of programs serving homeless individuals in the State; the Executive Directors of the County Welfare Directors Association

of New Jersey, the Municipal Welfare Association of New Jersey and the Association for Children of New Jersey, or their designees; a nutritionist; and two members of the public who are knowledgeable about emergency food programs.

To maximize available food resources in the State and ensure that limited food resources and State funding are allocated in the most effective and efficient manner, the bill directs the Commissioner of Human Services to contract with Rutgers University to conduct a Statewide needs assessment to:

- identify and quantify "lost" food in the State's food system, identify ways to minimize food spoilage, and develop a plan to "rescue" such food for transport to the State's emergency feeding programs;
- identify and quantify the need for emergency or supplemental feeding for families and individuals in the State;
- develop strategies for behaviorally focused educational outreach with at-risk families and individuals; and
- analyze nutritional sufficiencies and deficiencies in existing emergency food programs and assist in developing nutritionally complete, culturally acceptable diets.

The commissioner and the advisory committee will use the information obtained from the needs assessment in determining the future allocation of grant funds under the program.

The bill directs the commissioner to report annually to the Governor and the Legislature on the activities of the program. The report shall include a listing of the grants awarded under the program, the number of persons served through the grants and such other information as the commissioner deems appropriate.

As reported, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1591 (SCS) as also reported by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill appropriates up to \$5,000,000 from unexpended federal temporary assistance to needy family (TANF) funds to the Department of Human Services to carry out the purposes of the legislation. Of this amount, the department shall allocate up to \$250,000 to conduct the needs assessment and up to \$4,750,000 to fund grants to emergency food programs in the State.

ASSEMBLY SENIOR ISSUES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3044

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 18, 2001

The Assembly Senior Issues and Community Services Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3044.

This bill, the "New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program Act," establishes the New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program in the Department of Human Services. The purpose of the program is to: improve the health and nutritional status of State residents in need of food assistance; supplement the efforts of emergency food programs in the State to reduce hunger; and enable families and individuals to become food secure and self-sufficient.

The Commissioner of Human Services is to establish the program in conjunction with the regional food banks in the State. The goals of the program are to:

- (1) enhance the accessibility and availability of safe, nutritious food and food-related resources;
- (2) develop and provide nutrition education programs;
- (3) assess the needs of persons requesting food assistance and hunger-related issues to ensure program funds are used effectively; and
- (4) increase the independence from emergency food assistance programs of those who rely on such assistance.

The bill provides that the program will make grants to emergency food programs in the State that offer emergency food services, nutrition education, and referral or outreach services to other programs serving the same population. Grant recipients will be required to report quarterly to the Department of Human Services on the use of the grant funds.

The bill establishes a 13-member Hunger Prevention Advisory Committee in the Department of Human Services to assist the commissioner in the implementation of the program and to oversee a needs assessment to be conducted by Rutgers University. The advisory committee shall consist of:

- the Secretary of Agriculture and the Commissioners of Human Services and Community Affairs, or their designees; and
- 10 public members appointed by the Governor who shall include: two representatives of emergency food programs in the State; two

representatives of programs serving homeless individuals in the State; the Executive Directors of the County Welfare Directors Association of New Jersey, the Municipal Welfare Association of New Jersey and the Association for Children of New Jersey, or their designees; a nutritionist; and two members of the public who are knowledgeable about emergency food programs.

To maximize available food resources in the State and ensure that limited food resources and State funding are allocated in the most effective and efficient manner, the bill directs the Commissioner of Human Services to contract with Rutgers University to conduct a Statewide needs assessment to:

- identify and quantify "lost" food in the State's food system, identify ways to minimize food spoilage, and develop a plan to "rescue" such food for transport to the State's emergency feeding programs;
- identify and quantify the need for emergency or supplemental feeding for families and individuals in the State;
- develop strategies for behaviorally focused educational outreach with at-risk families and individuals; and
- analyze nutritional sufficiencies and deficiencies in existing emergency food programs and assist in developing nutritionally complete, culturally acceptable diets.

The commissioner and the advisory committee will use the information obtained from the needs assessment in determining the future allocation of grant funds under the program.

The bill directs the commissioner to report annually to the Governor and the Legislature on the activities of the program. The report shall include a listing of the grants awarded under the program, the number of persons served through the grants and such other information as the commissioner deems appropriate.

This bill is identical to Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1591.

P.L. 2001, CHAPTER 62, *approved April 19, 2001*
Senate Committee Substitute for
Senate, No. 1591

1 **AN ACT** concerning emergency food programs, supplementing Title 30
2 of the Revised Statutes and making an appropriation.

3

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

6

7 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "New Jersey
8 Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program Act."

9

10 2. There is established in the Department of Human Services, the
11 New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program.

12 The purpose of the program is to: improve the health and
13 nutritional status of State residents in need of food assistance,
14 supplement the efforts of emergency food programs in the State to
15 reduce hunger, and enable families and individuals to become food
16 secure and self-sufficient.

17 a. The Commissioner of Human Services shall establish the
18 program in conjunction with the regional food banks in the State.

19 b. The goals of the program are to:

20 (1) enhance the accessibility and availability of safe, nutritious
21 food and food-related resources;

22 (2) develop and provide comprehensive nutrition education
23 programs;

24 (3) periodically conduct assessments of the needs of persons
25 requesting food assistance and hunger-related issues to ensure
26 program funds are used effectively; and

27 (4) empower persons requesting food assistance or at risk of
28 needing food assistance to increase their independence from
29 emergency food assistance programs.

30

31 3. a. Within the limits of funds appropriated for the program and
32 such other funds as are made available to the program, the program
33 shall provide grants to emergency food programs in the State to carry
34 out the goals of the program.

35 An emergency food program shall submit an application for grant
36 funds to the Department of Human Services in a form and manner
37 prescribed by the Commissioner of Human Services. The
38 commissioner, in consultation with the Hunger Prevention Advisory
39 Committee established pursuant to section 4 of this act, shall award
40 grants to emergency food programs that:

41 (1) address an unmet need for emergency food services;

42 (2) offer services that meet the goals of the program, particularly

1 with respect to providing nutrition education services to persons in the
2 service area of the emergency food program;

3 (3) provide for referral or outreach services to other public and
4 private social services programs that serve the emergency food
5 program's target population;

6 (4) demonstrate culturally competent services, including
7 recognizing food preferences and traditions of the community, that are
8 appropriate to the target population of the emergency food program;
9 and

10 (5) demonstrate an ability to document how the grant funds are
11 used and to meet the reporting requirements of the program.

12 b. In addition to considering the criteria for awarding grants
13 provided in subsection a. of this section, upon completion of the needs
14 assessment conducted pursuant to section 5 of this act, the
15 commissioner and advisory committee shall take into consideration
16 the findings of the needs assessment in determining how grant funds
17 shall be allocated in the State.

18 c. Grant recipients shall report quarterly to the Department of
19 Human Services on the use of the grant funds, including the number
20 of persons served by the emergency food program, the type of services
21 received and such other information as required by the commissioner.
22

23 4. There is established a 13-member Hunger Prevention Advisory
24 Committee in the Department of Human Services. The advisory
25 committee shall assist the Commissioner of Human Services in the
26 implementation of the New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition
27 Assistance Program established pursuant to this act and shall oversee
28 the needs assessment that shall be conducted pursuant to section 5 of
29 this act.

30 a. The advisory committee shall consist of:

31 (1) the Secretary of Agriculture, the Commissioner of Human
32 Services, and the Commissioner of Community Affairs, or their
33 designees, who shall serve ex officio; and

34 (2) 10 public members appointed by the Governor who shall
35 include: two representatives of emergency food programs in the State;
36 two representatives of programs serving homeless individuals in the
37 State; the Executive Directors of the County Welfare Directors
38 Association of New Jersey, the Municipal Welfare Association of New
39 Jersey and the Association for Children of New Jersey, or their
40 designees; a nutritionist; and two members of the public who are
41 knowledgeable about emergency food programs. The public members
42 other than the executive directors shall serve during the term of office
43 of the Governor who shall have appointed them, at the pleasure of that
44 Governor.

45 b. Vacancies in the membership of the committee shall be filled in
46 the same manner provided for the original appointments.

1 c. The committee shall organize as soon as practicable following
2 the appointment of its members and shall select a chairperson and vice-
3 chairperson from among the members. The chairperson shall appoint
4 a secretary who need not be a member of the committee. d. The
5 committee shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of
6 the services of the employees of any State, county or municipal
7 department, board, bureau, commission or agency as it may require
8 and as may be available to it for its purposes.

9
10 5. The Commissioner of Human Services shall contract with
11 Rutgers, the State University to conduct a Statewide needs assessment
12 to:

13 a. identify and quantify, at all steps in the State's food delivery
14 system, wholesome and nutritious food that goes to waste before it
15 can be made available to those in need of such food;

16 b. identify and quantify the need for emergency or supplemental
17 feeding for families and individuals in the State;

18 c. identify strategies and structures for minimizing spoilage of
19 food resources;

20 d. develop a fiscally judicious plan to secure food from loss to
21 deterioration or waste and to transport and apportion that food to
22 emergency feeding programs throughout the State;

23 e. develop strategies for behaviorally focused educational outreach
24 with at-risk families and individuals; and

25 f. analyze nutritional sufficiencies and deficiencies in existing
26 emergency food programs and develop solutions to generating
27 nutritionally complete, culturally acceptable diets.

28
29 6. The Commissioner of Human Services shall report annually to
30 the Governor and the Legislature on the activities of the program. The
31 report shall include a listing of the grants awarded under the program,
32 the number of persons served through the grants and such other
33 information as the commissioner deems appropriate.

34
35 7. Upon certification by the Director of the Division of Budget
36 and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury that federal funds
37 not to exceed \$5,000,000 are available to support the expenditure,
38 such funds are appropriated from unexpended federal Temporary
39 Assistance to Needy Family funds to the Department of Human
40 Services to carry out the purposes of this act.

41 Of this appropriation, the department shall allocate up to \$250,000
42 to conduct the needs assessment pursuant to section 5 of this act and
43 up to \$4,750,000 for the purpose of making grants to emergency food
44 programs in the State pursuant to section 3 of this act.

45
46 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

SCS for S1591

4

1

2

3 "New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program

4 Act;" appropriates up to \$5,000,000 in unexpended federal TANF

5 funds.

CHAPTER 62

AN ACT concerning emergency food programs, supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes and making an appropriation.

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

C.30:1A-7 Short title.

1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program Act."

C.30:1A-8 New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program.

2. There is established in the Department of Human Services, the New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program.

The purpose of the program is to: improve the health and nutritional status of State residents in need of food assistance, supplement the efforts of emergency food programs in the State to reduce hunger, and enable families and individuals to become food secure and self-sufficient.

a. The Commissioner of Human Services shall establish the program in conjunction with the regional food banks in the State.

b. The goals of the program are to:

(1) enhance the accessibility and availability of safe, nutritious food and food-related resources;

(2) develop and provide comprehensive nutrition education programs;

(3) periodically conduct assessments of the needs of persons requesting food assistance and hunger-related issues to ensure program funds are used effectively; and

(4) empower persons requesting food assistance or at risk of needing food assistance to increase their independence from emergency food assistance programs.

C.30:1A-9 Grants to emergency food programs.

3. a. Within the limits of funds appropriated for the program and such other funds as are made available to the program, the program shall provide grants to emergency food programs in the State to carry out the goals of the program.

An emergency food program shall submit an application for grant funds to the Department of Human Services in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Human Services. The commissioner, in consultation with the Hunger Prevention Advisory Committee established pursuant to section 4 of this act, shall award grants to emergency food programs that:

(1) address an unmet need for emergency food services;

(2) offer services that meet the goals of the program, particularly with respect to providing nutrition education services to persons in the service area of the emergency food program;

(3) provide for referral or outreach services to other public and private social services programs that serve the emergency food program's target population;

(4) demonstrate culturally competent services, including recognizing food preferences and traditions of the community, that are appropriate to the target population of the emergency food program; and

(5) demonstrate an ability to document how the grant funds are used and to meet the reporting requirements of the program.

b. In addition to considering the criteria for awarding grants provided in subsection a. of this section, upon completion of the needs assessment conducted pursuant to section 5 of this act, the commissioner and advisory committee shall take into consideration the findings of the needs assessment in determining how grant funds shall be allocated in the State.

c. Grant recipients shall report quarterly to the Department of Human Services on the use of the grant funds, including the number of persons served by the emergency food program, the type of services received and such other information as required by the commissioner.

C.30:1A-10 Hunger Prevention Advisory Committee.

4. There is established a 13-member Hunger Prevention Advisory Committee in the Department of Human Services. The advisory committee shall assist the Commissioner of Human Services in the implementation of the New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition

Assistance Program established pursuant to this act and shall oversee the needs assessment that shall be conducted pursuant to section 5 of this act.

a. The advisory committee shall consist of:

(1) the Secretary of Agriculture, the Commissioner of Human Services, and the Commissioner of Community Affairs, or their designees, who shall serve ex officio; and

(2) 10 public members appointed by the Governor who shall include: two representatives of emergency food programs in the State; two representatives of programs serving homeless individuals in the State; the Executive Directors of the County Welfare Directors Association of New Jersey, the Municipal Welfare Association of New Jersey and the Association for Children of New Jersey, or their designees; a nutritionist; and two members of the public who are knowledgeable about emergency food programs. The public members other than the executive directors shall serve during the term of office of the Governor who shall have appointed them, at the pleasure of that Governor.

b. Vacancies in the membership of the committee shall be filled in the same manner provided for the original appointments.

c. The committee shall organize as soon as practicable following the appointment of its members and shall select a chairperson and vice-chairperson from among the members. The chairperson shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the committee.

d. The committee shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county or municipal department, board, bureau, commission or agency as it may require and as may be available to it for its purposes.

C.30:1A-11 Statewide needs assessment.

5. The Commissioner of Human Services shall contract with Rutgers, the State University to conduct a Statewide needs assessment to:

a. identify and quantify, at all steps in the State's food delivery system, wholesome and nutritious food that goes to waste before it can be made available to those in need of such food;

b. identify and quantify the need for emergency or supplemental feeding for families and individuals in the State;

c. identify strategies and structures for minimizing spoilage of food resources;

d. develop a fiscally judicious plan to secure food from loss to deterioration or waste and to transport and apportion that food to emergency feeding programs throughout the State;

e. develop strategies for behaviorally focused educational outreach with at-risk families and individuals; and

f. analyze nutritional sufficiencies and deficiencies in existing emergency food programs and develop solutions to generating nutritionally complete, culturally acceptable diets.

C.30:1A-12 Annual report to Governor, Legislature.

6. The Commissioner of Human Services shall report annually to the Governor and the Legislature on the activities of the program. The report shall include a listing of the grants awarded under the program, the number of persons served through the grants and such other information as the commissioner deems appropriate.

7. Upon certification by the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury that federal funds not to exceed \$5,000,000 are available to support the expenditure, such funds are appropriated from unexpended federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Family funds to the Department of Human Services to carry out the purposes of this act.

Of this appropriation, the department shall allocate up to \$250,000 to conduct the needs assessment pursuant to section 5 of this act and up to \$4,750,000 for the purpose of making grants to emergency food programs in the State pursuant to section 3 of this act.

8. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved April 19, 2001.

Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
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RELEASE: April 19 , 2001

DiFrancesco Signs Law Creating Hunger Prevention Program

*****Signs 7 other bills*****

Acting Gov. Donald T. DiFrancesco today signed legislation that creates a New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Assistance Program and allocates \$5 million for grants to food banks and other similar agencies.

S-1591, sponsored by Senators Kyrillos (R-Middlesex/Monmouth) and Palaia (R-Monmouth) and Assemblymembers Azzolina (R-Middlesex/Monmouth) and Thompson (R-Middlesex/Monmouth), allocates up to \$5 million in unexpended Temporary Assistance to Needy Family funds for grants to food banks and similar agencies.

The bill also establishes a New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Assistance Program in the Department of Human Services to improve the health and nutritional status of state residents in need of food assistance, supplement the efforts of emergency food programs in the state to reduce hunger, and enable families and individuals to become food secure and self-sufficient.

The Commissioner of Human Services is required by the bill to contract with Rutgers, the State University to conduct a six-pronged statewide needs assessment. The bill also establishes a 13 - member Hunger Prevention Advisory Committee within DHS to assist the commissioner in the implementation of the program.

The acting Governor also signed the following bills:

S-84, sponsored by Senator Zane (R-Salem/Cumberland/Gloucester) and Assembly members Felice (R-Bergen/Passaic) and Imprieveduto (D-Bergen/Hudson), clarifies the sexual assault statute in certain circumstances.

S-1372, sponsored by Senators Bennett (R-Monmouth) and Allen (R-Burlington/Camden) and Assemblymembers DiGaetano (R-Bergen/Essex/Passaic) and Moran (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Ocean), revises the procedure for self-administration by school pupils of medication for asthma.

S-2097, sponsored by Senators Kyrillos (R-Middlesex/Monmouth) and McNamara (R-Bergen/Passaic) and Assemblymembers Azzolina (R-Middlesex/Monmouth) and Thompson (R-Middlesex/Monmouth), Expands the role of the county superintendent in pupil transportation matters and permits school districts to offer subscription busing to additional students.

A-2549, sponsored by Assemblymembers Kelly (R-Bergen/Essex/Passaic) and Cohen (D-Union) and Senator Ciesla (R-Monmouth/Ocean), permits real estate brokers, broker-salespersons and salespersons to engage in certain promotions offering free or discounted products and services.

A-2318, sponsored by Assemblymembers Charles (D-Hudson) and Lance (R-Warren/Hunterdon/Mercer) and Senators Kenny (D-Hudson) and Kyrillos (R-Middlesex/Monmouth), appropriates \$350,000 to the Division of Youth and Family Services for a grant to Hudson Cradle, a nationally recognized multi-purpose family resource and transitional residence in Jersey City that serves approximately 50 "boarder babies" annually.

A-2458, sponsored by Assemblymembers Felice (R-Bergen/Passaic) and Doria (D-Hudson) and Assemblymember Conaway (D-Burlington/Camden), provides that prompt payment and claims payment enforcement laws apply to organized delivery systems. Organized delivery systems are entities that contract with health insurance carriers to provide either comprehensive health care services or benefits or limited health care services to covered persons under the carrier's health benefits plan or policy.