

44:10-105 & 44:10-106
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
Compiled by the NJ State Law Library

LAWS OF: 2016 **CHAPTER:** 11

NJSA: 44:10-105 & 44:10-106 (Permits DHS to request waiver of time limits for certain Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients under certain circumstances.)

BILL NO: S993 (Substituted for A2777)

SPONSOR(S) Vitale and others

DATE INTRODUCED: February 2, 2016

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** ---

SENATE: Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** June 30, 2016

SENATE: May 26, 2016

DATE OF APPROVAL: June 30, 2016

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (First Reprint enacted)

S993

SPONSOR’S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 3 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

SENATE: Yes

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes March 2, 2016
 June 1, 2016

A2777

SPONSOR’S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 3 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

SENATE: No

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

(continued)

VETO MESSAGE: Yes

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: Yes

Committee meeting of Senate Legislative Oversight Committee : the Committee will take testimony from invited guests on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Federal Heat and Eat program, and other governmental programs to combat hunger [January 28, 2016, Trenton, New Jersey]
Call number: [974.90 S678, 2016](#)

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

RWH/JA

SENATE, No. 993

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 4, 2016

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Senator ROBERT M. GORDON

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

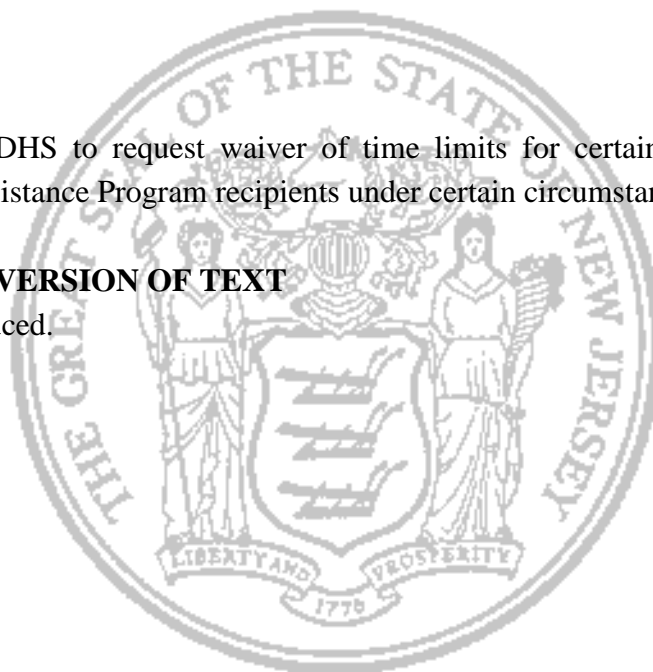
**Senators Madden, Whelan, Allen, Beck, Lesniak, Assemblywoman Jasey,
Senators Cunningham and Ruiz**

SYNOPSIS

Requires DHS to request waiver of time limits for certain Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients under certain circumstances.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/10/2016)

1 AN ACT concerning eligibility for benefits under the Supplemental
2 Nutrition Assistance Program and supplementing Title 44 of the
3 Revised Statutes.

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

7
8 1. Immediately upon enactment of this act and at least once
9 annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Human Services shall
10 conduct a review of available data on labor and employment in the
11 State produced by Department of Labor and Workforce
12 Development and the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. The
13 purpose of the review shall be to determine whether participants in
14 the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program may be eligible for
15 a waiver of the benefit time limit for able bodied adults without
16 dependents as authorized by 7 C.F.R. 273.24(f), either throughout
17 the State or in any geographic area of the State. The review shall
18 consider each criterion of eligibility for a waiver, including the
19 unemployment rate in the State and in each area in the State, as well
20 as indicators of a lack of sufficient jobs to provide employment as
21 described in 7 C.F.R. 273.24(f)(2)(ii). If the commissioner's review
22 finds that a waiver is likely to be approved for the State or any area
23 of the State, the commissioner shall submit a request for waiver.

24
25 2. a. The Commissioner of Human Services shall issue a report
26 no later than one month following the effective date of this act, and
27 monthly thereafter, to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of
28 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature on:

29 (1) the number of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
30 participants in each county who are subject to the benefit time limit
31 for able bodied adults without dependents;

32 (2) the number of participants whose benefits are in danger of
33 being terminated within the next month due to the benefits time
34 limit; and

35 (3) the number of participants whose benefits were terminated in
36 the past month as a result of the benefit time limit.

37 b. Beginning with the first report and at least once annually
38 thereafter, the report shall also describe the review of labor and
39 employment data conducted pursuant to section 1 of this act and
40 any actions taken by the commissioner related to requesting a
41 waiver of the time limit. If any area of the State is not covered by a
42 requested waiver, the report shall describe the commissioner's
43 reasons for not submitting a waiver request.

44
45 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

1

2

3 This bill would require that, immediately upon enactment of the
4 bill and at least once annually, the Commissioner of Human
5 Services must conduct a review of available data on labor and
6 employment in the State to determine whether participants in the
7 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly called
8 Food Stamps) may be eligible for a waiver of the benefit time limit
9 for able bodied adults without dependents. If the review finds that a
10 waiver is likely to be approved for the State or any area of the State,
11 the commissioner must submit a request for waiver. Press reports
12 have indicated that the Department of Human Services had intended
13 to apply for waivers for 15 counties (Atlantic, Burlington, Camden,
14 Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer,
15 Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Sussex, and Union) but declined
16 to submit the waiver requests, allowing their waivers to expire
17 effective January 1, 2016. It is the sponsor's intent that these
18 waiver requests be submitted immediately.

19 The bill also requires the commissioner to submit monthly
20 reports to the Governor and Legislature on: (1) the number of
21 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants in each
22 county who are subject to the benefit time limit for able bodied
23 adults without dependents; (2) the number of participants whose
24 benefits are in danger of being terminated within the next month
25 due to the benefits time limit; and (3) the number of participants
26 whose benefits were terminated in the past month as a result of the
27 benefit time limit. Beginning with the first report and at least once
28 annually thereafter, the report would also describe the review of
29 labor and employment data and any actions taken by the
30 commissioner related to requesting a waiver of the time limit. If
31 any area of the State is not covered by a requested waiver, the
32 report would describe the commissioner's reasons for not
33 submitting a waiver request.

34 Federal regulations provide that, in general, able-bodied adults
35 without dependents are subject to a time limit for SNAP benefits of
36 three months in a 36 month period unless they work at least 20
37 hours per week. However, states are permitted to seek a waiver of
38 the three-month time limit if the unemployment rate in the state or
39 an area of the state is greater than 10 percent, or if there is a lack of
40 sufficient jobs to provide employment. New Jersey had applied for
41 and been granted such waivers from 2009 to 2015, but did not to
42 seek any waiver for 2016. Many economically struggling counties
43 and municipalities in New Jersey likely could have been approved
44 for waivers. It has been estimated that the restoration of the time
45 limit will result in approximately 11,000 New Jersey residents
46 losing their SNAP benefits.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 993

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2016

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 993.

This bill would require that, immediately upon enactment of the bill and at least once annually, the Commissioner of Human Services must conduct a review of available data on labor and employment in the State to determine whether participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly called Food Stamps) may be eligible for a waiver of the benefit time limit for able bodied adults without dependents. If the review finds that a waiver is likely to be approved for the State or any area of the State, the commissioner must submit a request for waiver. Press reports have indicated that the Department of Human Services had intended to apply for waivers for 15 counties (Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Sussex, and Union) but declined to submit the waiver requests, allowing their waivers to expire effective January 1, 2016. It is the sponsor's intent that these waiver requests be submitted immediately.

The bill also requires the commissioner to submit monthly reports to the Governor and Legislature on: (1) the number of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants in each county who are subject to the benefit time limit for able bodied adults without dependents; (2) the number of participants whose benefits are in danger of being terminated within the next month due to the benefits time limit; and (3) the number of participants whose benefits were terminated in the past month as a result of the benefit time limit. Beginning with the first report and at least once annually thereafter, the report would also describe the review of labor and employment data and any actions taken by the commissioner related to requesting a waiver of the time limit. If any area of the State is not covered by a requested waiver, the report would describe the commissioner's reasons for not submitting a waiver request.

Federal regulations provide that, in general, able-bodied adults without dependents are subject to a time limit for SNAP benefits of

three months in a 36 month period unless they work at least 20 hours per week. However, states are permitted to seek a waiver of the three-month time limit if the unemployment rate in the state or an area of the state is greater than 10 percent, or if there is a lack of sufficient jobs to provide employment. New Jersey had applied for and been granted such waivers from 2009 to 2015, but did not to seek any waiver for 2016. Many economically struggling counties and municipalities in New Jersey likely could have been approved for waivers. It has been estimated that the restoration of the time limit will result in approximately 11,000 New Jersey residents losing their SNAP benefits.

SENATE, No. 993

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 4, 2016

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Senator ROBERT M. GORDON

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

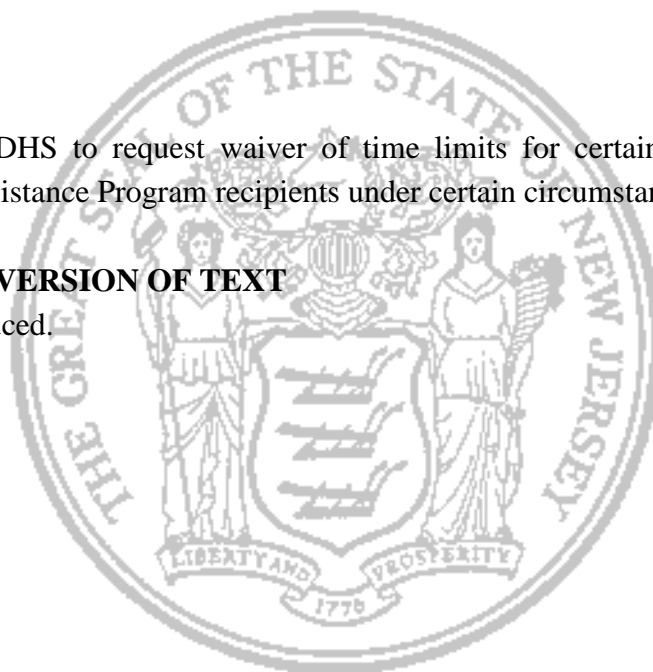
**Senators Madden, Whelan, Allen, Beck, Lesniak, Assemblywoman Jasey,
Senators Cunningham and Ruiz**

SYNOPSIS

Requires DHS to request waiver of time limits for certain Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients under certain circumstances.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/10/2016)

1 AN ACT concerning eligibility for benefits under the Supplemental
2 Nutrition Assistance Program and supplementing Title 44 of the
3 Revised Statutes.

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

7
8 1. Immediately upon enactment of this act and at least once
9 annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Human Services shall
10 conduct a review of available data on labor and employment in the
11 State produced by Department of Labor and Workforce
12 Development and the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. The
13 purpose of the review shall be to determine whether participants in
14 the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program may be eligible for
15 a waiver of the benefit time limit for able bodied adults without
16 dependents as authorized by 7 C.F.R. 273.24(f), either throughout
17 the State or in any geographic area of the State. The review shall
18 consider each criterion of eligibility for a waiver, including the
19 unemployment rate in the State and in each area in the State, as well
20 as indicators of a lack of sufficient jobs to provide employment as
21 described in 7 C.F.R. 273.24(f)(2)(ii). If the commissioner's review
22 finds that a waiver is likely to be approved for the State or any area
23 of the State, the commissioner shall submit a request for waiver.

24
25 2. a. The Commissioner of Human Services shall issue a report
26 no later than one month following the effective date of this act, and
27 monthly thereafter, to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of
28 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature on:

29 (1) the number of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
30 participants in each county who are subject to the benefit time limit
31 for able bodied adults without dependents;

32 (2) the number of participants whose benefits are in danger of
33 being terminated within the next month due to the benefits time
34 limit; and

35 (3) the number of participants whose benefits were terminated in
36 the past month as a result of the benefit time limit.

37 b. Beginning with the first report and at least once annually
38 thereafter, the report shall also describe the review of labor and
39 employment data conducted pursuant to section 1 of this act and
40 any actions taken by the commissioner related to requesting a
41 waiver of the time limit. If any area of the State is not covered by a
42 requested waiver, the report shall describe the commissioner's
43 reasons for not submitting a waiver request.

44
45 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46

This bill would require that, immediately upon enactment of the bill and at least once annually, the Commissioner of Human Services must conduct a review of available data on labor and employment in the State to determine whether participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly called Food Stamps) may be eligible for a waiver of the benefit time limit for able bodied adults without dependents. If the review finds that a waiver is likely to be approved for the State or any area of the State, the commissioner must submit a request for waiver. Press reports have indicated that the Department of Human Services had intended to apply for waivers for 15 counties (Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Sussex, and Union) but declined to submit the waiver requests, allowing their waivers to expire effective January 1, 2016. It is the sponsor's intent that these waiver requests be submitted immediately.

The bill also requires the commissioner to submit monthly reports to the Governor and Legislature on: (1) the number of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants in each county who are subject to the benefit time limit for able bodied adults without dependents; (2) the number of participants whose benefits are in danger of being terminated within the next month due to the benefits time limit; and (3) the number of participants whose benefits were terminated in the past month as a result of the benefit time limit. Beginning with the first report and at least once annually thereafter, the report would also describe the review of labor and employment data and any actions taken by the commissioner related to requesting a waiver of the time limit. If any area of the State is not covered by a requested waiver, the report would describe the commissioner's reasons for not submitting a waiver request.

Federal regulations provide that, in general, able-bodied adults without dependents are subject to a time limit for SNAP benefits of three months in a 36 month period unless they work at least 20 hours per week. However, states are permitted to seek a waiver of the three-month time limit if the unemployment rate in the state or an area of the state is greater than 10 percent, or if there is a lack of sufficient jobs to provide employment. New Jersey had applied for and been granted such waivers from 2009 to 2015, but did not to seek any waiver for 2016. Many economically struggling counties and municipalities in New Jersey likely could have been approved for waivers. It has been estimated that the restoration of the time limit will result in approximately 11,000 New Jersey residents losing their SNAP benefits.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 993

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2016

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 993.

This bill would require that, immediately upon enactment of the bill and at least once annually, the Commissioner of Human Services must conduct a review of available data on labor and employment in the State to determine whether participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly called Food Stamps) may be eligible for a waiver of the benefit time limit for able bodied adults without dependents. If the review finds that a waiver is likely to be approved for the State or any area of the State, the commissioner must submit a request for waiver. Press reports have indicated that the Department of Human Services had intended to apply for waivers for 15 counties (Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Sussex, and Union) but declined to submit the waiver requests, allowing their waivers to expire effective January 1, 2016. It is the sponsor's intent that these waiver requests be submitted immediately.

The bill also requires the commissioner to submit monthly reports to the Governor and Legislature on: (1) the number of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants in each county who are subject to the benefit time limit for able bodied adults without dependents; (2) the number of participants whose benefits are in danger of being terminated within the next month due to the benefits time limit; and (3) the number of participants whose benefits were terminated in the past month as a result of the benefit time limit. Beginning with the first report and at least once annually thereafter, the report would also describe the review of labor and employment data and any actions taken by the commissioner related to requesting a waiver of the time limit. If any area of the State is not covered by a requested waiver, the report would describe the commissioner's reasons for not submitting a waiver request.

Federal regulations provide that, in general, able-bodied adults without dependents are subject to a time limit for SNAP benefits of

three months in a 36 month period unless they work at least 20 hours per week. However, states are permitted to seek a waiver of the three-month time limit if the unemployment rate in the state or an area of the state is greater than 10 percent, or if there is a lack of sufficient jobs to provide employment. New Jersey had applied for and been granted such waivers from 2009 to 2015, but did not to seek any waiver for 2016. Many economically struggling counties and municipalities in New Jersey likely could have been approved for waivers. It has been estimated that the restoration of the time limit will result in approximately 11,000 New Jersey residents losing their SNAP benefits.

SENATE, No. 993

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 4, 2016

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Senator ROBERT M. GORDON

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

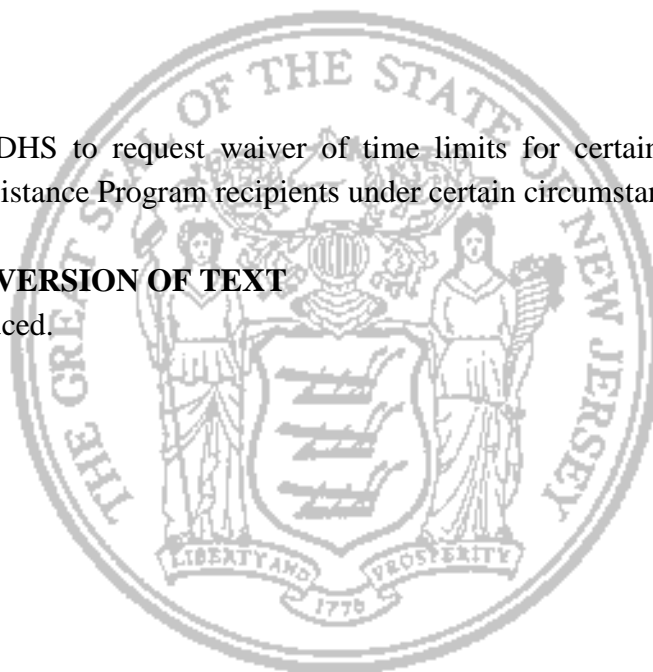
**Senators Madden, Whelan, Allen, Beck, Lesniak, Assemblywoman Jasey,
Senators Cunningham and Ruiz**

SYNOPSIS

Requires DHS to request waiver of time limits for certain Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients under certain circumstances.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/10/2016)

1 AN ACT concerning eligibility for benefits under the Supplemental
2 Nutrition Assistance Program and supplementing Title 44 of the
3 Revised Statutes.

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

7
8 1. Immediately upon enactment of this act and at least once
9 annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Human Services shall
10 conduct a review of available data on labor and employment in the
11 State produced by Department of Labor and Workforce
12 Development and the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. The
13 purpose of the review shall be to determine whether participants in
14 the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program may be eligible for
15 a waiver of the benefit time limit for able bodied adults without
16 dependents as authorized by 7 C.F.R. 273.24(f), either throughout
17 the State or in any geographic area of the State. The review shall
18 consider each criterion of eligibility for a waiver, including the
19 unemployment rate in the State and in each area in the State, as well
20 as indicators of a lack of sufficient jobs to provide employment as
21 described in 7 C.F.R. 273.24(f)(2)(ii). If the commissioner's review
22 finds that a waiver is likely to be approved for the State or any area
23 of the State, the commissioner shall submit a request for waiver.

24
25 2. a. The Commissioner of Human Services shall issue a report
26 no later than one month following the effective date of this act, and
27 monthly thereafter, to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of
28 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature on:

29 (1) the number of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
30 participants in each county who are subject to the benefit time limit
31 for able bodied adults without dependents;

32 (2) the number of participants whose benefits are in danger of
33 being terminated within the next month due to the benefits time
34 limit; and

35 (3) the number of participants whose benefits were terminated in
36 the past month as a result of the benefit time limit.

37 b. Beginning with the first report and at least once annually
38 thereafter, the report shall also describe the review of labor and
39 employment data conducted pursuant to section 1 of this act and
40 any actions taken by the commissioner related to requesting a
41 waiver of the time limit. If any area of the State is not covered by a
42 requested waiver, the report shall describe the commissioner's
43 reasons for not submitting a waiver request.

44
45 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46

This bill would require that, immediately upon enactment of the bill and at least once annually, the Commissioner of Human Services must conduct a review of available data on labor and employment in the State to determine whether participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly called Food Stamps) may be eligible for a waiver of the benefit time limit for able bodied adults without dependents. If the review finds that a waiver is likely to be approved for the State or any area of the State, the commissioner must submit a request for waiver. Press reports have indicated that the Department of Human Services had intended to apply for waivers for 15 counties (Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Sussex, and Union) but declined to submit the waiver requests, allowing their waivers to expire effective January 1, 2016. It is the sponsor's intent that these waiver requests be submitted immediately.

The bill also requires the commissioner to submit monthly reports to the Governor and Legislature on: (1) the number of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants in each county who are subject to the benefit time limit for able bodied adults without dependents; (2) the number of participants whose benefits are in danger of being terminated within the next month due to the benefits time limit; and (3) the number of participants whose benefits were terminated in the past month as a result of the benefit time limit. Beginning with the first report and at least once annually thereafter, the report would also describe the review of labor and employment data and any actions taken by the commissioner related to requesting a waiver of the time limit. If any area of the State is not covered by a requested waiver, the report would describe the commissioner's reasons for not submitting a waiver request.

Federal regulations provide that, in general, able-bodied adults without dependents are subject to a time limit for SNAP benefits of three months in a 36 month period unless they work at least 20 hours per week. However, states are permitted to seek a waiver of the three-month time limit if the unemployment rate in the state or an area of the state is greater than 10 percent, or if there is a lack of sufficient jobs to provide employment. New Jersey had applied for and been granted such waivers from 2009 to 2015, but did not to seek any waiver for 2016. Many economically struggling counties and municipalities in New Jersey likely could have been approved for waivers. It has been estimated that the restoration of the time limit will result in approximately 11,000 New Jersey residents losing their SNAP benefits.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 993

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2016

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 993.

This bill would require that, immediately upon enactment of the bill and at least once annually, the Commissioner of Human Services must conduct a review of available data on labor and employment in the State to determine whether participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly called Food Stamps) may be eligible for a waiver of the benefit time limit for able bodied adults without dependents. If the review finds that a waiver is likely to be approved for the State or any area of the State, the commissioner must submit a request for waiver. Press reports have indicated that the Department of Human Services had intended to apply for waivers for 15 counties (Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Sussex, and Union) but declined to submit the waiver requests, allowing their waivers to expire effective January 1, 2016. It is the sponsor's intent that these waiver requests be submitted immediately.

The bill also requires the commissioner to submit monthly reports to the Governor and Legislature on: (1) the number of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants in each county who are subject to the benefit time limit for able bodied adults without dependents; (2) the number of participants whose benefits are in danger of being terminated within the next month due to the benefits time limit; and (3) the number of participants whose benefits were terminated in the past month as a result of the benefit time limit. Beginning with the first report and at least once annually thereafter, the report would also describe the review of labor and employment data and any actions taken by the commissioner related to requesting a waiver of the time limit. If any area of the State is not covered by a requested waiver, the report would describe the commissioner's reasons for not submitting a waiver request.

Federal regulations provide that, in general, able-bodied adults without dependents are subject to a time limit for SNAP benefits of

three months in a 36 month period unless they work at least 20 hours per week. However, states are permitted to seek a waiver of the three-month time limit if the unemployment rate in the state or an area of the state is greater than 10 percent, or if there is a lack of sufficient jobs to provide employment. New Jersey had applied for and been granted such waivers from 2009 to 2015, but did not to seek any waiver for 2016. Many economically struggling counties and municipalities in New Jersey likely could have been approved for waivers. It has been estimated that the restoration of the time limit will result in approximately 11,000 New Jersey residents losing their SNAP benefits.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
SENATE, No. 993
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

DATED: MARCH 2, 2016

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Requires DHS to request waiver of time limits for certain Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients under certain circumstances.

Type of Impact: No impact.

Agencies Affected: Department of Human Services, county welfare agencies

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Years 1-3</u>
State Cost	No impact
Local Cost	No impact

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) finds that the bill would have a negligible impact on the operations of the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the county welfare agencies, and that any changes in employee workload would be accommodated with no change to current operating budgets.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill No. 993 of 2016 requires that, immediately upon enactment of the bill and at least once annually, the Commissioner of Human Services must conduct a review of available data on labor and employment in the State to determine whether participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly called Food Stamps) may be eligible for a waiver of the benefit time limit for able bodied adults without dependents. If the review finds that a waiver is likely to be approved for the State or any area of the State, the commissioner must submit a request for waiver. The bill also requires the commissioner to submit monthly reports to the Governor and Legislature on: (1) the number of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants in each county who are subject to the benefit time limit for able bodied adults without dependents; (2) the number of participants whose benefits are in danger of being terminated within the next month due to the benefits time limit; and (3) the number of

participants whose benefits were terminated in the past month as a result of the benefit time limit. Beginning with the first report and at least once annually thereafter, the report would also describe the review of labor and employment data and any actions taken by the commissioner related to requesting a waiver of the time limit. If any area of the State is not covered by a requested waiver, the report would describe the commissioner's reasons for not submitting a waiver request.

Federal regulations provide that, in general, able-bodied adults without dependents are subject to a time limit for SNAP benefits of three months in a 36 month period unless they work at least 20 hours per week. However, states are permitted to seek a waiver of the three-month time limit if the unemployment rate in the state or an area of the state is greater than 10 percent, or if there is a lack of sufficient jobs to provide employment. New Jersey had applied for and been granted such waivers from 2009 to 2015, but did not seek any waiver for 2016. Many economically struggling counties and municipalities in New Jersey likely could have been approved for waivers. It has been estimated that the restoration of the time limit will result in approximately 11,000 New Jersey residents losing their SNAP benefits.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS finds that the bill would have a negligible impact on the operations of the DHS and the county welfare agencies, and that any changes in employee workload would be accommodated with no change to current operating budgets.

The majority of the costs related to the bill (assuming that the federal government would approve at least some waiver applications submitted pursuant to the bill) would be borne by the federal government, as the cost of SNAP benefits is paid directly by the federal government. Press reports have indicated that the Department of Human Services had intended to apply for waivers for 15 counties (Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Sussex, and Union) but declined to submit the waiver requests, allowing their waivers to expire effective January 1, 2016. Assuming that these waiver requests would be submitted, several thousand residents of these counties could avoid the loss of federally funded SNAP benefits.

The DHS has regularly submitted waiver applications to the federal government for decades, so the bill's requirement that the DHS submit such applications does not alter current practices and has no fiscal impact. The bill does impose new reporting obligations on the DHS, which do not require it to collect any information not currently available, but would require additional work by DHS staff. The OLS assumes that such activities could be accomplished with current operating budget. If expenditures were to increase, the State would receive federal funding at a rate of 50 percent, as it does for most SNAP administrative costs.

Assuming that the federal government would grant some of the waivers sought under the bill, county welfare agencies in affected areas would see some reduction in their obligations related to SNAP eligibility determinations, as they would no longer be obligated to enforce the time limits for able-bodied adults without dependents in SNAP. The OLS assumes that county welfare agencies will retain the same staff levels regardless of whether or not this obligation exists, but

that agencies will allocate staff time and resources to other activities if not required to use them to enforce compliance with the time limits.

Section: Human Services

*Analyst: David Drescher
Senior Research Analyst*

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

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

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
SENATE, No. 993
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

DATED: MARCH 2, 2016

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Requires DHS to request waiver of time limits for certain Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients under certain circumstances.

Type of Impact: No impact.

Agencies Affected: Department of Human Services, county welfare agencies

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Years 1-3</u>
State Cost	No impact
Local Cost	No impact

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) finds that the bill would have a negligible impact on the operations of the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the county welfare agencies, and that any changes in employee workload would be accommodated with no change to current operating budgets.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill No. 993 of 2016 requires that, immediately upon enactment of the bill and at least once annually, the Commissioner of Human Services must conduct a review of available data on labor and employment in the State to determine whether participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly called Food Stamps) may be eligible for a waiver of the benefit time limit for able bodied adults without dependents. If the review finds that a waiver is likely to be approved for the State or any area of the State, the commissioner must submit a request for waiver. The bill also requires the commissioner to submit monthly reports to the Governor and Legislature on: (1) the number of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants in each county who are subject to the benefit time limit for able bodied adults without dependents; (2) the number of participants whose benefits are in danger of being terminated within the next month due to the benefits time limit; and (3) the number of

participants whose benefits were terminated in the past month as a result of the benefit time limit. Beginning with the first report and at least once annually thereafter, the report would also describe the review of labor and employment data and any actions taken by the commissioner related to requesting a waiver of the time limit. If any area of the State is not covered by a requested waiver, the report would describe the commissioner's reasons for not submitting a waiver request.

Federal regulations provide that, in general, able-bodied adults without dependents are subject to a time limit for SNAP benefits of three months in a 36 month period unless they work at least 20 hours per week. However, states are permitted to seek a waiver of the three-month time limit if the unemployment rate in the state or an area of the state is greater than 10 percent, or if there is a lack of sufficient jobs to provide employment. New Jersey had applied for and been granted such waivers from 2009 to 2015, but did not seek any waiver for 2016. Many economically struggling counties and municipalities in New Jersey likely could have been approved for waivers. It has been estimated that the restoration of the time limit will result in approximately 11,000 New Jersey residents losing their SNAP benefits.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS finds that the bill would have a negligible impact on the operations of the DHS and the county welfare agencies, and that any changes in employee workload would be accommodated with no change to current operating budgets.

The majority of the costs related to the bill (assuming that the federal government would approve at least some waiver applications submitted pursuant to the bill) would be borne by the federal government, as the cost of SNAP benefits is paid directly by the federal government. Press reports have indicated that the Department of Human Services had intended to apply for waivers for 15 counties (Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Sussex, and Union) but declined to submit the waiver requests, allowing their waivers to expire effective January 1, 2016. Assuming that these waiver requests would be submitted, several thousand residents of these counties could avoid the loss of federally funded SNAP benefits.

The DHS has regularly submitted waiver applications to the federal government for decades, so the bill's requirement that the DHS submit such applications does not alter current practices and has no fiscal impact. The bill does impose new reporting obligations on the DHS, which do not require it to collect any information not currently available, but would require additional work by DHS staff. The OLS assumes that such activities could be accomplished with current operating budget. If expenditures were to increase, the State would receive federal funding at a rate of 50 percent, as it does for most SNAP administrative costs.

Assuming that the federal government would grant some of the waivers sought under the bill, county welfare agencies in affected areas would see some reduction in their obligations related to SNAP eligibility determinations, as they would no longer be obligated to enforce the time limits for able-bodied adults without dependents in SNAP. The OLS assumes that county welfare agencies will retain the same staff levels regardless of whether or not this obligation exists, but

that agencies will allocate staff time and resources to other activities if not required to use them to enforce compliance with the time limits.

Section: Human Services

*Analyst: David Drescher
Senior Research Analyst*

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

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

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 993

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 1, 2016

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Permits DHS to request waiver of time limits for certain Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients under certain circumstances.
- Type of Impact:** Negligible impact.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Human Services.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Years 1-3</u>
State Cost	Negligible impact

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) finds that the bill largely codifies existing processes within the Department of Human Services (DHS), and that it would not influence any future determinations regarding applications for waivers of time limits in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- The OLS finds that the preparation of three annual reports required by the bill would be accommodated within the current operating budget of the DHS.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill No. 993 (1R) of 2016 requires that, at least once annually, the Commissioner of Human Services must conduct a review of available data on labor and employment in the State to determine whether to submit a request for a waiver of the benefit time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents participating in SNAP. Based on the review of the availability of opportunities to fulfill the federal work requirement for participation in SNAP, the commissioner would determine whether to submit a request for a waiver. The bill also requires the commissioner to submit annual reports over the next three years to the Governor and Legislature on: (1) the number of SNAP participants in each county who are subject to the benefit time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents; and (2) the number of participants whose benefits were terminated in the past year as a result of the benefit time limit. The report would also

describe the review of labor and employment data and any actions taken by the commissioner related to requesting a waiver of the time limit.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS finds that the bill would have a negligible impact on the operations of the DHS and the county welfare agencies, and that any changes in employee workload would be accommodated with no change to current operating budgets.

The bill does not alter the authority of the Commissioner of Human Services to seek waivers of time limits for able-bodied adults without dependents – that authority is already granted by federal law. The OLS assumes that, even in the absence of the bill, the commissioner would review available data on labor and employment in the State to determine the likely impact of a waiver before determining whether to apply for a waiver. Thus, this provision of the bill would not alter current activities, and would not alter any decisions to seek waivers. The three annual reports required by the bill would require a small amount of staff time to prepare, but the OLS estimates that this could be accommodated within the department's current operating budget.

In the event that the bill were to cause the commissioner to apply for a waiver where a waiver would not otherwise have been sought, costs for the payment of SNAP benefits would be borne by the federal government. County welfare agencies in affected areas would see some reduction in their obligations related to SNAP eligibility determinations, as they would no longer be obligated to enforce the time limits for able-bodied adults without dependents in SNAP. The OLS assumes that county welfare agencies will retain the same staff levels regardless of whether or not this obligation exists, but that agencies will allocate staff time and resources to other activities if not required to use them to enforce compliance with the time limits.

Section: Human Services

*Analyst: David Drescher
Senior Fiscal Analyst*

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

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

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

ASSEMBLY, No. 2777

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 8, 2016

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman SHEILA Y. OLIVER

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Jasey

SYNOPSIS

Requires DHS to request waiver of time limits for certain Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients under certain circumstances.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/23/2016)

1 AN ACT concerning eligibility for benefits under the Supplemental
2 Nutrition Assistance Program and supplementing Title 44 of the
3 Revised Statutes.

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

7
8 1. Immediately upon enactment of this act and at least once
9 annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Human Services shall
10 conduct a review of available data on labor and employment in the
11 State produced by Department of Labor and Workforce
12 Development and the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. The
13 purpose of the review shall be to determine whether participants in
14 the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program may be eligible for
15 a waiver of the benefit time limit for able bodied adults without
16 dependents as authorized by 7 C.F.R. 273.24(f), either throughout
17 the State or in any geographic area of the State. The review shall
18 consider each criterion of eligibility for a waiver, including the
19 unemployment rate in the State and in each area in the State, as well
20 as indicators of a lack of sufficient jobs to provide employment as
21 described in 7 C.F.R. 273.24(f)(2)(ii). If the commissioner's review
22 finds that a waiver is likely to be approved for the State or any area
23 of the State, the commissioner shall submit a request for waiver.

24
25 2. a. The Commissioner of Human Services shall issue a report
26 no later than one month following the effective date of this act, and
27 monthly thereafter, to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of
28 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature on:

29 (1) the number of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
30 participants in each county who are subject to the benefit time limit
31 for able bodied adults without dependents;

32 (2) the number of participants whose benefits are in danger of
33 being terminated within the next month due to the benefits time
34 limit; and

35 (3) the number of participants whose benefits were terminated in
36 the past month as a result of the benefit time limit.

37 b. Beginning with the first report and at least once annually
38 thereafter, the report shall also describe the review of labor and
39 employment data conducted pursuant to section 1 of this act and
40 any actions taken by the commissioner related to requesting a
41 waiver of the time limit. If any area of the State is not covered by a
42 requested waiver, the report shall describe the commissioner's
43 reasons for not submitting a waiver request.

44
45 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46

This bill would require that, immediately upon enactment of the bill and at least once annually, the Commissioner of Human Services must conduct a review of available data on labor and employment in the State to determine whether participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly called Food Stamps) may be eligible for a waiver of the benefit time limit for able bodied adults without dependents. If the review finds that a waiver is likely to be approved for the State or any area of the State, the commissioner must submit a request for waiver. Press reports have indicated that the Department of Human Services had intended to apply for waivers for 15 counties (Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Sussex, and Union) but declined to submit the waiver requests, allowing their waivers to expire effective January 1, 2016. It is the sponsor's intent that these waiver requests be submitted immediately.

The bill also requires the commissioner to submit monthly reports to the Governor and Legislature on: (1) the number of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants in each county who are subject to the benefit time limit for able bodied adults without dependents; (2) the number of participants whose benefits are in danger of being terminated within the next month due to the benefits time limit; and (3) the number of participants whose benefits were terminated in the past month as a result of the benefit time limit. Beginning with the first report and at least once annually thereafter, the report would also describe the review of labor and employment data and any actions taken by the commissioner related to requesting a waiver of the time limit. If any area of the State is not covered by a requested waiver, the report would describe the commissioner's reasons for not submitting a waiver request.

Federal regulations provide that, in general, able-bodied adults without dependents are subject to a time limit for SNAP benefits of three months in a 36 month period unless they work at least 20 hours per week. However, states are permitted to seek a waiver of the three-month time limit if the unemployment rate in the state or an area of the state is greater than 10 percent, or if there is a lack of sufficient jobs to provide employment. New Jersey had applied for and been granted such waivers from 2009 to 2015, but did not to seek any waiver for 2016. Many economically struggling counties and municipalities in New Jersey likely could have been approved for waivers. It has been estimated that the restoration of the time limit will result in approximately 11,000 New Jersey residents losing their SNAP benefits.

ASSEMBLY HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2777

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 8, 2016

The Assembly Human Services Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2777.

This bill would require that, immediately upon enactment of the bill and at least once annually, the Commissioner of Human Services must conduct a review of available data on labor and employment in the State to determine whether participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly called Food Stamps) may be eligible for a waiver of the benefit time limit for able bodied adults without dependents. If the review finds that a waiver is likely to be approved for the State or any area of the State, the commissioner must submit a request for waiver. Press reports have indicated that the Department of Human Services had intended to apply for waivers for 15 counties (Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Sussex, and Union) but declined to submit the waiver requests, allowing their waivers to expire effective January 1, 2016. It is the sponsor's intent that these waiver requests be submitted immediately.

The bill also requires the commissioner to submit monthly reports to the Governor and Legislature on: (1) the number of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants in each county who are subject to the benefit time limit for able bodied adults without dependents; (2) the number of participants whose benefits are in danger of being terminated within the next month due to the benefits time limit; and (3) the number of participants whose benefits were terminated in the past month as a result of the benefit time limit. Beginning with the first report and at least once annually thereafter, the report would also describe the review of labor and employment data and any actions taken by the commissioner related to requesting a waiver of the time limit. If any area of the State is not covered by a requested waiver, the report would describe the commissioner's reasons for not submitting a waiver request.

Federal regulations provide that, in general, able-bodied adults without dependents are subject to a time limit for SNAP benefits of three months in a 36 month period unless they work at least 20 hours per week. However, states are permitted to seek a waiver of

the three-month time limit if the unemployment rate in the state or an area of the state is greater than 10 percent, or if there is a lack of sufficient jobs to provide employment. New Jersey had applied for and been granted such waivers from 2009 to 2015, but did not to seek any waiver for 2016. Many economically struggling counties and municipalities in New Jersey likely could have been approved for waivers. It has been estimated that the restoration of the time limit will result in approximately 11,000 New Jersey residents losing their SNAP benefits.

SENATE BILL NO. 993

To the Senate:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Senate Bill No. 993 with my recommendations for reconsideration.

The New Jersey "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program" ("SNAP"), a joint federal-state partnership, provides many lower-income individuals and families in New Jersey with access to food and nutrition supplies. Under federal law, as a condition of receipt of full SNAP benefits, certain able-bodied adults without dependents ("ABAWDs") are required to engage in a work activity.

Since 2008, pursuant to a blanket waiver provided by the federal government due to the Great Recession, the State has been providing full benefits to all participants, including ABAWDs, without regard to the work requirement. At the end of 2015, however, the statewide waiver expired. In light of the State's steadily declining unemployment rate and consistent with a desire to help benefit recipients achieve independence, my Administration committed to taking active steps to ensure that SNAP participants are able not only to fulfill their work requirements, but to do so through meaningful work activities that are likely to lead to long term employment.

This bill, instead of promoting work participation, which is in the best interests of the recipients and the entire State, would require the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services to apply for a waiver of the work requirement for the State or any area of the State whenever SNAP participants might be eligible under federal law. While I am committed to supporting the SNAP program and ensuring that those individuals in need of benefits receive them, our goal as a State should be to find ways to fulfill the ultimate objective of the work

requirement - to assist individuals in achieving self-sufficiency.

Nevertheless, I acknowledge the sponsors' concern that individuals may lose SNAP benefits for failing to fulfill the work requirement if there are insufficient work opportunities for able-bodied SNAP beneficiaries. Therefore, I am recommending that the bill be amended to require the Commissioner of Human Services annually to review data on labor and employment in the State and then make a decision on whether to apply for a waiver of the work requirement. In addition, I am recommending that the Department of Human Services monitor the success of the current work requirement initiatives by reviewing data on ABAWD SNAP recipients.

Accordingly, I herewith return Senate Bill No. 993 and recommend that it be amended as follows:

- Page 2, Section 1, Line 8: Delete "enactment" and insert "the effective date"
- Page 2, Section 1, Line 13: Delete "participants in" and insert "to submit a request for"
- Page 2, Section 1, Line 14: Delete in its entirety
- Page 2, Section 1, Line 16: After "dependents" insert "participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program"
- Page 2, Section 1, Line 18: Delete ", including the"
- Page 2, Section 1, Line 19: Delete "unemployment rate in the State and in each area in the State,"
- Page 2, Section 1, Line 20: Delete "indicators of a lack of sufficient jobs to provide employment as" and insert "the availability of opportunities that will fulfill the work requirement"
- Page 2, Section 1, Line 21: Delete "(f) (2) (ii)" and insert "(a)"
- Page 2, Section 1, Line 21: Delete "If the commissioner's review" and insert "Based on the review conducted pursuant to this section, the Commissioner shall determine whether to"
- Page 2, Section 1, Line 22: Delete in its entirety

Page 2, Section 1, Line 23: Delete "of the State, the commissioner shall"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 23: After "for" insert "a"

Page 2, Section 2, Line 25: After "report" insert "annually over the next three years, with the first report being issued"

Page 2, Section 2, Line 26: Delete "and"

Page 2, Section 2, Line 27: Delete "monthly thereafter,"

Page 2, Section 2, Line 31: After "dependents;" insert "and"

Page 2, Section 2, Lines 32-34: Delete in their entirety

Page 2, Section 2, Line 35: Delete "(3)" and insert "(2)"

Page 2, Section 2, Line 36: Delete "month" and insert "year"

Page 2, Section 2, Lines 37-38: Delete "Beginning with the first report and at least once annually thereafter, the" and insert "The"

Page 2, Section 2, Line 41: Delete "If any area of the State is not covered by a"

Page 2, Section 2, Lines 42-43: Delete in their entirety

Page 2, Section 3, Line 45: Delete "immediately" and insert "on the first day of the sixth month next following the date of enactment"

Respectfully,

[seal]

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Scott A. Coffina

Senior Deputy Chief Counsel to the Governor

[Home](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Media](#) | [Administration](#) | [NJ's Priorities](#) | [Contact Us](#)
[Press Releases](#) | [Public Addresses](#) | [Executive Orders](#) | [Press Kit](#) | [Reports](#)
[Home](#) > [Newsroom](#) > [Press Releases](#) > 2016

Governor Christie Signs 7th Consecutive Budget Without Raising Taxes On New Jersey Families

Thursday, June 30, 2016

Tags: [Budget and Spending](#)

Continues Commitment To Fiscal Responsibility

Through the use of his veto pen, Governor Christie today signed a seventh consecutive balanced budget that protects taxpayers and critical services through the responsible management of state resources while making the difficult choices to prioritize and fund the essential services on which New Jersey's residents rely.

For Fiscal Year 2017, Assembly and Senate Democrats once again presented an irresponsible spending plan that favors increasing expenditures for select programs without any meaningful and intellectual consideration for how the state will fund their proposals. But this year they have become uniquely reckless and deceptive, relying on phantom finances, irresponsible gimmicks and unrealistic assumptions to fund hundreds of millions of dollars of new spending.

- Their plan is based on impractical expectations that the State will collect **\$129 million** in additional revenues than projected in the Governor's revised May budget recommendations and **\$301 million** more than the May revenue projections prepared by their own Office of Legislative Services.

Additionally, the legislative majority wants to thoughtlessly spend down the State's surplus by \$160 million. Worse, however, is their shameless inclusion of a **\$250 million** savings in public employee and retiree health care costs which the Governor called for in February, but which the Legislature did absolutely nothing to embrace, negotiate or achieve. As it stands, the savings is penciled in on paper, but completely nonexistent.

Rather than enact responsible policies to continue New Jersey's economic recovery, Democrat leaders remain committed to an unsustainable path designed to protect special interests instead of hardworking New Jerseyans. The taxpayers of this State cannot afford it. Real leadership requires confronting problems and making difficult decisions. It is time to focus on the real issues, like school funding reform and providing real property tax relief. It is time to adopt a transportation spending plan that protects our infrastructure without continuing to overburden our overtaxed residents. It is time for politicians to work for their citizens and not special interest groups.

Governor Christie's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget:

Governor Christie's budget includes **\$34.5 billion** in State appropriations, a **2.1%** increase over the fiscal year 2016 budget. This will accommodate the reasonable spending necessary to provide stability for New Jersey's economy while meeting the state's fiscal obligations.

- Contains **\$2.3 billion less in discretionary spending** than the fiscal year 2008 budget and no new taxes or tax increases.
- Includes the largest pension payment in New Jersey history with a **\$1.9 billion** contribution to the State's defined benefit funds.
 - o This will bring total contributions by the Christie Administration to **\$6.3 billion**.
 - o That will be nearly double the total contributions of every other governor combined since 1995.

Stay Connected
with Social Media

Stay Connected
with Email Alerts

LIKE THIS PAGE? SHARE IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS.

SHARE [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [...](#)

- Includes a sixth consecutive year of the highest amount of School Aid supporting Pre-K - 12 education in New Jersey history. The fiscal year 2017 budget proposes spending more than **\$13.3 billion** on education, an increase of **\$526 million** from fiscal year 2016.
- Continues the Governor's commitment to higher education in New Jersey. Overall, higher education funding is maintained at a total of **\$2.2 billion** in fiscal year 2017.

Providing Tax Relief For Our Citizens. Governor Christie has fought for and won tax relief that is making New Jersey more competitive as a place to live and work.

- **Over \$3 Billion in Business Tax Cuts and Reforms** – Beginning with the fiscal 2012 budget, Governor Christie tackled New Jersey's business tax climate with tax cuts and reforms that had stalled in Trenton for years. Among the tax reforms included were: long-awaited changes to a single sales factor formula that incentivizes businesses to invest in New Jersey; income/loss netting and loss carry-forward reform; a 25% reduction in the minimum tax on S-corporations, which is how many small businesses file their taxes; research and development incentives; and elimination of the Transitional Energy Facility Assessment.
- The Governor's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget continues to provide this essential tax relief for New Jersey businesses of all sizes, fully phased in and unchanged.
- **Increase in the Earned Income Tax Credit** – In the summer of 2015, Governor Christie proposed and enacted into law an increase in the Earned Income Tax Credit from 20% to 30% of the federal benefit. Approximately 500,000 Garden State households will benefit from this tax relief, with the credit for an average working family rising by 50% from approximately \$420 to \$630. The Governor's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget continues this critical tax relief for working families at this expanded level.

Historic Higher Education Funding. Maintains the Governor's commitment to higher education in New Jersey. Overall, higher education funding is maintained at a total of **\$2.2 billion** in fiscal year 2017. Among Governor Christie's highest priorities has been strengthening New Jersey's higher education community.

- **Tuition Assistance Grant Program (TAG)** – To ensure an affordable in-state college education is available to all, TAG grants are available at 56 public and private institutions across New Jersey. Since taking office, Governor Christie has increased State funding for the TAG program by over 60%, to a total of \$403.6 million in fiscal year 2017. Approximately 68,000 students, or one-third of all full-time undergraduate students attending school in New Jersey, will receive support from TAG.
- **Governor's Urban Scholarship** – The Governor's Urban Scholarship program will add a fifth class, and will now support an estimated 635 scholars in targeted school districts.
- **College Readiness Now** – Funded at \$1 million in fiscal year 2017, this program will help students prepare for college level course work before they graduate high school. Funding will fully support partnerships between the county colleges and at least 60 high schools throughout the state, with at least one in each county.

Preserving Vital Programs For Our Most Needy And Vulnerable Populations. Advances the Governor's efforts to take a smarter and more effective approach to how the State supports individuals with mental health and substance use disorders. Governor Christie has consistently advocated for the need to change the way society views drug addiction and the misconceptions about who it impacts, how it affects lives, and how we deal with it. In the fiscal year 2017 budget, Governor Christie continues to provide unprecedented leadership on this issue by taking concrete actions to build on this commitment by providing an additional \$6 million for statewide post-incarceration services through reentry and recidivism programs.

- **\$127 Million Investment In Substance Use & Mental Health Treatment** – The Governor is making a historic financial commitment to raise reimbursement rates and increase access to substance use and mental health treatment. A combined State and federal investment in fiscal year 2017 of more than **\$127 million**, will expand access to high quality health care providers for individuals with substance use and behavioral health needs.
- **Inmate Drug Treatment Program** – Continuing his commitment to help all individuals with substance use disorders, Governor Christie is investing **\$2 million** to re-open Mid-State Correctional Facility in 2017 as an institution dedicated to the treatment of inmates. The new Mid-State Correctional Facility substance use disorder treatment program will be licensed by the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS).
- **Focusing On Treatment** – Governor Christie has followed through on his commitment to take a smarter and more effective approach focused on treating drug-addicted offenders by signing into law landmark legislation to put in place a statewide, mandatory Drug Court Program. The fiscal year 2017 budget includes nearly **\$64 million** in funding to support the Drug Court program.
- **Recovery Coach Program** – As a direct result of the Facing Addiction Task Force's work, the Recovery Coach program launched in Monmouth, Ocean, Camden, Essex and Passaic counties. In fiscal year 2017, the budget provides an additional **\$1.7 million** in funding to expand this program into six more counties.

Fundamentally changing the way services and programs to support individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Governor Christie is committed to moving away from a system that has historically focused on institutionalization to one that emphasizes home and community-based services and supports. To this end, resources have been refocused to provide people with intellectual and developmental disabilities with the ability to live as independently as possible with the proper supports. Governor Christie's determination to provide services in the

community includes funds to develop additional community placements and services that divert admissions to developmental centers.

- The fiscal year 2017 budget provides **\$48.8 million** of new State and federal funding to create community placements and services, including Olmstead.
- Further, included in the fiscal year 2017 budget is a one-time community provider increase for a combined State and federal investment of **\$10 million**. These funds will allow providers that serve individuals with developmental disabilities to make the infrastructure improvements necessary to transition to fee-for-service.

BILLS SIGNED:

S-993wGR/A-2777 (Vitale, Pou, Gordon/Wimberly, Vainieri Huttie, Sumter, Oliver) – Permits DHS to request waiver of time limits for certain Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients under certain circumstances

S-2377/A-4001 (Sarlo/Schaer) - Makes fiscal year 2016 State supplemental appropriations and amends language provisions

S-2456/A-4017 (Smith, Bateman/Andrzejczak, McKeon, Spencer, Pintor Marin, Dancer) - Revises State's open space, farmland, and historic preservation programs; implements 2014 constitutional dedication of CBT revenues for certain environmental purposes

A-3417wGR/S-1462 (Pintor Marin/Ruiz) - Designates portion of State Highway Route No. 21 as "Roberto Clemente Memorial Highway"

A-3617/S-2390 (Green, Rible, Mukherji, Houghtaling Mazzeo/Sarlo, Kyrillos) - Extends expiration date of certain permits for one year in Superstorm Sandy-impacted counties

A-4002 (Schaer) – Revises priority schedule for issuance of converted tax credits under Business Employment Incentive Program

BILLS VETOED:

S-17/A-4000 (Sarlo/Schaer) – LINE ITEM - Appropriates \$34,800,995,000 in State funds and \$15,706,712,000 in federal funds for the State budget for fiscal year 2016-2017

S-1017/A-1963 (Weinberg, Greenstein/Pintor Marin, Lagana, Jasey, Mukherji, Downey) – ABSOLUTE - Provides Medicaid coverage for family planning services to individuals with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level

A-30/S-1829 (Prieto, Muoio, Oliver, Schaer, Holley, Mukherji, Quijano/Vitale, Whelan) – ABSOLUTE - Increases amount of benefits under Work First New Jersey program

A-1657/S-2168 (Schaer, Vainieri Huttie, Lampitt, Mosquera, Sumter, Wimberly/ Cruz-Perez, Turner) – ABSOLUTE - Establishes "breakfast after the bell" incentive fund

A-3410/S-1854 (Muoio, Vainieri Huttie, Mukherji, Oliver, Gusclora/Vitale, Rice) – ABSOLUTE - Repeals family cap in Work First New Jersey program

###

Press Contact:
Brian Murray
609-777-2600



[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Notice](#) | [Legal Statement & Disclaimers](#) | [Accessibility Statement](#) | 

Statewide: [NJ Home](#) | [Services A to Z](#) | [Departments/Agencies](#) | [FAQs](#)
Office of the Governor: [Home](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Media](#) | [Administration](#) | [NJ's Priorities](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Copyright © State of New Jersey, 1996-2017
Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-6000

[Home](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Media](#) | [Administration](#) | [NJ's Priorities](#) | [Contact Us](#)
[Press Releases](#) | [Public Addresses](#) | [Executive Orders](#) | [Press Kit](#) | [Reports](#)
[Home](#) > [Newsroom](#) > [Press Releases](#) > 2016

Governor Christie Signs Seventh Balanced Budget With No Tax Increases

Thursday, June 30, 2016

Tags: [Budget and Spending](#)

Trenton, NJ - Governor Chris Christie today signed into law his seventh balanced budget that provides stability for the New Jersey economy and meets the State's fiscal obligations. The Governor's Fiscal Year 2017 State Budget is also his seventh consecutive with no new taxes or tax increases and includes \$2.3 billion less in discretionary spending than the fiscal year 2008 budget. This \$34.5 billion budget continues for a sixth consecutive year the highest amount of aid for public schools and includes the largest pension payment in New Jersey history.

"Once again, for Fiscal Year 2017, the legislative majority has presented me with an irresponsible spending plan. Their unrealistic budget makes no hard choices, relying instead on gimmicks and assumptions to fund hundreds of millions of dollars in new spending while confirming beyond all doubt that they are untrustworthy stewards of the State's finances," said Governor Christie. "It anticipates \$129 million more in additional State revenue collections than my revised May budget recommendations and \$301 million more than the May revenue projections prepared by their own Office of Legislative Services. Because the Legislature's proposal is unsound, I must again object."

The budget recommendations submitted by Governor Christie to the Legislature in February, and updated in May, included a surplus as well as a modest assumption for health benefit reforms that called for \$250 million in savings to offset anticipated growth. This represents a small down payment on the \$2 billion in reforms recommended by the bipartisan New Jersey Pension and Health Benefit Study Commission. However, the Fiscal Year 2017 budget passed by the Legislature fails either to budget responsibly for the projected health benefits growth or to provide any assurance of actual, substantive reforms.

"In contrast to the legislative majority's fiscal irresponsibility, my budget framework provides stability for New Jersey's economy. It accommodates reasonable spending, while responsibly meeting the State's fiscal obligations. The Fiscal Year 2017 pension contribution is the largest in State history and continues the strong foundation for the State moving forward. Moreover, my budget ensures funding for our students, protects the public safety, provides property tax relief for our citizens, and preserves vital programs for our most needy and vulnerable populations," added Governor Christie.

Key Priorities Delivered by Governor Christie's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget:

- Includes the largest pension payment in New Jersey history with a \$1.9 billion contribution to the State's defined benefit funds.
- This will bring total contributions by the Christie Administration to \$6.3 billion, nearly doubling the total contributions of every other governor combined since 1995.
- Maintains the Governor's commitment to higher education in New Jersey to the tune of \$2.2 billion in fiscal year 2017.
- Continues a sixth consecutive year of record-high funding for Pre-K through 12 public education. The fiscal year 2017 budget will spend more than \$13.3 billion on education, an increase of \$526 million from fiscal year 2016.
- Advances the Governor's smarter and more effective approach to how the State supports individuals with mental health and substance use disorders.

Other Action Taken:

Stay Connected
with Social Media

Stay Connected
with Email Alerts

LIKE THIS PAGE? SHARE IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS.

SHARE [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [...](#)

More Information

[Revenue Certification \[pdf 37kB\]](#)

To address the legislature's disturbing spending plan, the Governor issued an executive order placing millions of dollars in budget appropriations in fiscal reserve. Additionally, Governor Christie again protected taxpayers today by vetoing millions of dollars in reckless spending bills passed by legislative Democrats outside of the state budget. Among the bills vetoed were two supplemental spending bills that would have cost over \$17 million:

S-2413/A-4003 (Ruiz, Rice/Pinto Marin, Muoio, Mukherji) – ABSOLUTE - Makes supplemental appropriations totaling \$9,563,415 to DOH for grants of \$7,765,325 to Newark Beth Israel Hospital and \$1,798,090 to St. Francis Medical Center to implement improved health outcomes and sustainable transformation of healthcare delivery

A-3492/S-2277 (Mazzeo, Mosquera, Lampitt, Vainieri Huttler, Jones, Jimenez, Downey/Weinberg, Sweeney) – ABSOLUTE - Makes FY 2017 supplemental appropriation of \$7,453,000 to DOH for family planning services

The Governor also acted today on other pending legislation:

BILLS SIGNED:

S-993wGR/A-2777 (Vitale, Pou, Gordon/Wimberly, Vainieri Huttler, Sumter, Oliver) – Permits DHS to request waiver of time limits for certain Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients under certain circumstances

S-2377/A-4001 (Sarlo/Schaer) - Makes fiscal year 2016 State supplemental appropriations and amends language provisions

S-2456/A-4017 (Smith, Bateman/Andrzejczak, McKeon, Spencer, Pintor Marin, Dancer) - Revises State's open space, farmland, and historic preservation programs; implements 2014 constitutional dedication of CBT revenues for certain environmental purposes

A-3417wGR/S-1462 (Pintor Marin/Ruiz) - Designates portion of State Highway Route No. 21 as "Roberto Clemente Memorial Highway"

A-3617/S-2390 (Green, Rible, Mukherji, Houghtaling Mazzeo/Sarlo, Kyrillos) - Extends expiration date of certain permits for one year in Superstorm Sandy-impacted counties

A-4002 (Schaer) – Revises priority schedule for issuance of converted tax credits under Business Employment Incentive Program

BILLS VETOED:

S-17/A-4000 (Sarlo/Schaer) – LINE ITEM - Appropriates \$34,800,995,000 in State funds and \$15,706,712,000 in federal funds for the State budget for fiscal year 2016-2017

S-1017/A-1963 (Weinberg, Greenstein/Pintor Marin, Lagana, Jasey, Mukherji, Downey) – ABSOLUTE - Provides Medicaid coverage for family planning services to individuals with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level

A-30/S-1829 (Prieto, Muoio, Oliver, Schaer, Holley, Mukherji, Quijano/Vitale, Whelan) – ABSOLUTE - Increases amount of benefits under Work First New Jersey program

A-1657/S-2168 (Schaer, Vainieri Huttler, Lampitt, Mosquera, Sumter, Wimberly/ Cruz-Perez, Turner) – ABSOLUTE - Establishes "breakfast after the bell" incentive fund

A-3410/S-1854 (Muoio, Vainieri Huttler, Mukherji, Oliver, Gusciora/Vitale, Rice) – ABSOLUTE - Repeals family cap in Work First New Jersey program

###

Press Contact:
Brian Murray
609-777-2600



[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Notice](#) | [Legal Statement & Disclaimers](#) | [Accessibility Statement](#) | 

Statewide: [NJ Home](#) | [Services A to Z](#) | [Departments/Agencies](#) | [FAQs](#)
Office of the Governor: [Home](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Media](#) | [Administration](#) | [NJ's Priorities](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Copyright © State of New Jersey, 1996-2017
Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-6000