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**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:** No

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** Yes

"Seniors struggling more in Hudson," Jersey Journal, 3-9-15

LAW/RWH

Title 44.  
Chapter 15 (New)  
Resources for the  
Elderly  
§§1-4 -  
C.44:15-1 to  
44:15-4

P.L.2015, CHAPTER 53, *approved May 7, 2015*  
Assembly, No. 3504 (*First Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** concerning measurement of elder economic security <sup>1</sup>**[.]**  
2 and<sup>1</sup> supplementing Title 44 of the Revised Statutes <sup>1</sup>**[.]**, and  
3 making an appropriation<sup>1</sup>**]**.  
4

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

8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that low-income elderly  
9 residents of the State are pressured by a widening gap between their  
10 increasing housing, health care, fuel, and utility expenses and their  
11 fixed incomes. Unfortunately, when income falls short of needs,  
12 the value of public support programs is often compromised by  
13 insufficient funding, low income limits, and asset limits that  
14 discourage savings.

15 The New Jersey Elder Economic Security Standard Index (NJ  
16 Elder Index) is a tool that measures the income older adults require  
17 to make ends meet and to remain in their own homes. The NJ Elder  
18 Index and related data helps elders and policymakers quantify elder  
19 economic security; examine the components of economically secure  
20 elders' basic expenses; measure how well public policies can help  
21 fill these gaps; evaluate current income support programs' ability to  
22 move individuals toward economic security; calculate New Jersey's  
23 elder economic insecurity rate; and identify who is most likely to  
24 lack security.  
25

26 2. a. The Department of Human Services shall utilize the NJ  
27 Elder Index to improve the coordination and delivery of public  
28 benefits and services to older adults residing in the State and as a  
29 planning tool to allocate public resources more efficiently.

30 b. The department shall update the NJ Elder Index annually  
31 using the most recent publicly available data on the costs to live in  
32 each county of the State. The department shall further provide the  
33 number and percentage of single elder and elder couple households  
34 with incomes below the Index by gender, by housing status, by race

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AHE committee amendments adopted October 2, 2014.

1 and ethnicity, and by age 65 to 74 years and 75 or more years, as  
2 data sources allow. The data sources to be used shall include:

3 (1) fair market rents, published by the U.S. Department of  
4 Housing and Urban Development;

5 (2) home ownership costs, published by the U.S. Census Bureau  
6 in the American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample;

7 (3) the low-cost food plan, published by the U.S. Department of  
8 Agriculture;

9 (4) Medicare Part A and Part B and out-of-pocket costs,  
10 published by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services;

11 (5) Medicare Advantage and Part D contract and enrollment  
12 data, published by the U.S. Department of Health & Human  
13 Services;

14 (6) annual miles driven by seniors, from the National Household  
15 Travel Survey, published by the U.S. Department of Transportation;

16 (7) automobile operation costs per miles driven, published by  
17 the U.S. Internal Revenue Service; <sup>1</sup>and<sup>1</sup>

18 (8) miscellaneous expenses, including clothing, shoes, paper  
19 products, cleaning products, household items, personal hygiene  
20 items, and a landline telephone, calculated at 20 percent of housing,  
21 food, health care, and transportation.

22 c. In addition to the core NJ Elder Index, long-term care costs  
23 shall be calculated as a significant element of elders' living costs.  
24 The department shall calculate home and community-based long-  
25 term care costs. Projections shall include weekly costs for six  
26 hours, 16 hours, and 36 hours, with and without adult day services.  
27 Data sources to be used in determining these costs shall include:

28 (1) public long-term care costs for homemakers, home health  
29 aides, case management, and adult day health services and  
30 transportation rates, provided by the New Jersey Department of  
31 Human Services; and

32 (2) private long-term care costs, published in the Genworth Cost  
33 of Care Survey and adjusted according to the Consumer Price Index  
34 published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

35 d. <sup>1</sup>**["The"]** When updating the NJ Elder Index and related data  
36 pursuant to this section, the<sup>1</sup> department shall <sup>1</sup>**["report"]** provide<sup>1</sup>  
37 the NJ Elder Index and related data for the State and each county  
38 and any other geographic unit for which index data is deemed  
39 relevant and desirable.

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41 3. a. <sup>1</sup>**["The"]** In any case in which the department reports on  
42 the incomes of public benefit participants, the<sup>1</sup> department shall  
43 <sup>1</sup>**["report on the incomes of public benefit program participants by**  
44 **comparing"]** compare<sup>1</sup> participant incomes to their local county NJ  
45 Elder Index.

46 b. The department shall refer to the NJ Elder Index and related  
47 data when:

- 1 (1) making recommendations for funding to the Governor and
- 2 the Legislature;
- 3 (2) establishing public benefit income eligibility limits;
- 4 (3) calculating the change in economic security levels in order
- 5 to benchmark the impact of public benefit programs for seniors;
- 6 (4) designing public outreach programs; and
- 7 (5) evaluating case management initiatives that capture the
- 8 incomes of public benefit program participants and track the impact
- 9 of the resulting economic security benefit for these participants.

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11 4. <sup>1</sup>【There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
12 Department of Human Services \$250,000 for the purpose of  
13 updating the NJ Elder Index and related data and performing the  
14 required comparison of household incomes to county-specific NJ  
15 Elder Indexes.】 Compliance with the requirements of P.L. \_\_\_\_\_,  
16 c. \_\_\_\_\_ (C. \_\_\_\_\_) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall be  
17 subject to the appropriation of sufficient funds and the availability  
18 of sufficient resources. If sufficient funds and resources are  
19 unavailable to the department to enable full compliance with the  
20 provisions of P.L. \_\_\_\_\_, c. \_\_\_\_\_ (C. \_\_\_\_\_) (pending before the  
21 Legislature as this bill), the department shall comply with its  
22 provisions to the extent possible within the limits of available  
23 funding and resources.<sup>1</sup>

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25 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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30 Requires DHS to use and update NJ Elder Index and related data  
31 to the extent possible.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 3504

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 11, 2014

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman JOSEPH A. LAGANA**

**District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires DHS to use NJ Elder Index and related data; appropriates \$250,000.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning measurement of elder economic security,  
2 supplementing Title 44 of the Revised Statutes, and making an  
3 appropriation.

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

7  
8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that low-income elderly  
9 residents of the State are pressured by a widening gap between their  
10 increasing housing, health care, fuel, and utility expenses and their  
11 fixed incomes. Unfortunately, when income falls short of needs,  
12 the value of public support programs is often compromised by  
13 insufficient funding, low income limits, and asset limits that  
14 discourage savings.

15 The New Jersey Elder Economic Security Standard Index (NJ  
16 Elder Index) is a tool that measures the income older adults require  
17 to make ends meet and to remain in their own homes. The NJ Elder  
18 Index and related data helps elders and policymakers quantify elder  
19 economic security; examine the components of economically secure  
20 elders' basic expenses; measure how well public policies can help  
21 fill these gaps; evaluate current income support programs' ability to  
22 move individuals toward economic security; calculate New Jersey's  
23 elder economic insecurity rate; and identify who is most likely to  
24 lack security.

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26 2. a. The Department of Human Services shall utilize the NJ  
27 Elder Index to improve the coordination and delivery of public  
28 benefits and services to older adults residing in the State and as a  
29 planning tool to allocate public resources more efficiently.

30 b. The department shall update the NJ Elder Index annually  
31 using the most recent publicly available data on the costs to live in  
32 each county of the State. The department shall further provide the  
33 number and percentage of single elder and elder couple households  
34 with incomes below the Index by gender, by housing status, by race  
35 and ethnicity, and by age 65 to 74 years and 75 or more years, as  
36 data sources allow. The data sources to be used shall include:

37 (1) fair market rents, published by the U.S. Department of  
38 Housing and Urban Development;

39 (2) home ownership costs, published by the U.S. Census Bureau  
40 in the American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample;

41 (3) the low-cost food plan, published by the U.S. Department of  
42 Agriculture;

43 (4) Medicare Part A and Part B and out-of-pocket costs,  
44 published by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services;

45 (5) Medicare Advantage and Part D contract and enrollment  
46 data, published by the U.S. Department of Health & Human  
47 Services;

1 (6) annual miles driven by seniors, from the National Household  
2 Travel Survey, published by the U.S. Department of Transportation;

3 (7) automobile operation costs per miles driven, published by  
4 the U.S. Internal Revenue Service;

5 (8) miscellaneous expenses, including clothing, shoes, paper  
6 products, cleaning products, household items, personal hygiene  
7 items, and a landline telephone, calculated at 20 percent of housing,  
8 food, health care, and transportation.

9 c. In addition to the core NJ Elder Index, long-term care costs  
10 shall be calculated as a significant element of elders' living costs.  
11 The department shall calculate home and community-based long-  
12 term care costs. Projections shall include weekly costs for six  
13 hours, 16 hours, and 36 hours, with and without adult day services.  
14 Data sources to be used in determining these costs shall include:

15 (1) public long-term care costs for homemakers, home health  
16 aides, case management, and adult day health services and  
17 transportation rates, provided by the New Jersey Department of  
18 Human Services; and

19 (2) private long-term care costs, published in the Genworth Cost  
20 of Care Survey and adjusted according to the Consumer Price Index  
21 published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

22 d. The department shall report the NJ Elder Index and related  
23 data for the State and each county and any other geographic unit for  
24 which index data is deemed relevant and desirable.

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26 3. a. The department shall report on the incomes of public  
27 benefit program participants by comparing participant incomes to  
28 their local county NJ Elder Index.

29 b. The department shall refer to the NJ Elder Index and related  
30 data when:

31 (1) making recommendations for funding to the Governor and  
32 the Legislature;

33 (2) establishing public benefit income eligibility limits;

34 (3) calculating the change in economic security levels in order  
35 to benchmark the impact of public benefit programs for seniors;

36 (4) designing public outreach programs; and

37 (5) evaluating case management initiatives that capture the  
38 incomes of public benefit program participants and track the impact  
39 of the resulting economic security benefit for these participants.

40

41 4. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
42 Department of Human Services \$250,000 for the purpose of  
43 updating the NJ Elder Index and related data and performing the  
44 required comparison of household incomes to county-specific NJ  
45 Elder Indexes.

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47 5. This act shall take effect immediately.



STATEMENT

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This bill would require the Department of Human Services to use the NJ Elder Economic Security Standard Index (NJ Elder Index) as a planning tool to improve the coordination and delivery of public benefits and services to older adults residing in the State. The Elder Economic Security Standard Index was developed by Wider Opportunities for Women and the Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Boston to identify the private market cost of seniors' basic needs for every state and county in the United States.

The bill would require the department to update the NJ Elder Index annually using the most recent publicly available data on the costs to live in each county of the State. The department would further be required to determine how many single elder and elder couple households fall below the NJ Elder Index by providing demographic details of their gender, housing status, ethnicity, and age. The bill provides a list of publicly available data sources that the department would be required to incorporate into the NJ Elder Index.

The bill also requires the department to report on the incomes of public benefit program participants by comparing participant incomes to their local county NJ Elder Index. The department would be required to refer to the NJ Elder Index data when making recommendations for funding to the Governor and the Legislature, establishing public benefit income eligibility limits, calculating the change in economic security levels in order to benchmark the impact of public benefit programs for seniors, designing public outreach programs, and evaluating case management initiatives.

The bill appropriates \$250,000 to the department for the purpose of updating the NJ Elder Index and related data and performing the required comparison of household incomes to county-specific NJ Elder Indexes.

# ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **ASSEMBLY, No. 3504**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: OCTOBER 2, 2014

The Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee reports favorably and with amendments Assembly Bill No. 3504.

As amended, this bill requires the Department of Human Services, within the limits of available funds and resources, to use the NJ Elder Economic Security Standard Index (NJ Elder Index) as a planning tool to improve the coordination and delivery of public benefits and services to older adults residing in the State. The Elder Economic Security Standard Index was developed by Wider Opportunities for Women and the Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Boston to identify the private market cost of seniors' basic needs for every state and county in the United States.

Subject to the availability of sufficient funds and resources, the bill requires the department to update the NJ Elder Index annually using the most recent publicly available data on the costs to live in each county of the State. The department would further be required to determine how many single elder and elder couple households fall below the NJ Elder Index by providing demographic details of their gender, housing status, ethnicity, and age. The bill provides a list of publicly available data sources that the department would be required to incorporate into the NJ Elder Index.

The bill also requires that, in any case in which the department reports on the incomes of public benefit participants, the department, subject to the availability of sufficient funds and resources, must compare participant incomes to their local county NJ Elder Index.

Within the limits of available funds and resources, the department would be required to refer to the NJ Elder Index data when making recommendations for funding to the Governor and the Legislature, establishing public benefit income eligibility limits, calculating the change in economic security levels in order to benchmark the impact of public benefit programs for seniors, designing public outreach programs, and evaluating case management initiatives.

The requirements of the bill are subject to the availability of sufficient funds and resources, and the department is required to comply with the bill to the extent possible within the limits of available funds and resources.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to remove an appropriation of \$250,000 and to provide that the department is only required to comply with the bill's provisions to the extent possible within the limits of available funding and resources.

The committee amended the title and synopsis of the bill to remove references to the appropriation.

The committee amended the bill to clarify that the requirement that the department report the NJ Elder Index and related data for the State, each county, and any other relevant geographic unit, is part of the requirement that the State update the NJ Elder Index.

The committee amended the bill to clarify the language concerning the requirement that, when reporting the incomes of public benefit program participants, the department must compare the incomes with the local county NJ Elder Index.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR  
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 3504**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 9, 2015

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3504 (1R).

This bill requires the Department of Human Services, within the limits of available funds and resources, to use the NJ Elder Economic Security Standard Index (NJ Elder Index) as a planning tool to improve the coordination and delivery of public benefits and services to older adults residing in the State. The Elder Economic Security Standard Index was developed by Wider Opportunities for Women and the Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Boston to identify the private market cost of seniors' basic needs for every state and county in the United States.

Subject to the availability of sufficient funds and resources, the bill requires the department to update the NJ Elder Index annually using the most recent publicly available data on the costs to live in each county of the State. The department would further be required to determine how many single elder and elder couple households fall below the NJ Elder Index by providing demographic details of their gender, housing status, ethnicity, and age. The bill provides a list of publicly available data sources that the department would be required to incorporate into the NJ Elder Index.

The bill also requires that, in any case in which the department reports on the incomes of public benefit participants, the department, subject to the availability of sufficient funds and resources, must compare participant incomes to their local county NJ Elder Index.

Within the limits of available funds and resources, the department would be required to refer to the NJ Elder Index data when making recommendations for funding to the Governor and the Legislature, establishing public benefit income eligibility limits, calculating the change in economic security levels in order to benchmark the impact of public benefit programs for seniors, designing public outreach programs, and evaluating case management initiatives.

The requirements of the bill are subject to the availability of sufficient funds and resources, and the department is required to

comply with the bill to the extent possible within the limits of available funds and resources.

As reported, this bill is identical to S-2231(SCA) (Weinberg/Vitale), which the committee also reported favorably on this date.

# SENATE, No. 2231

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 16, 2014

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator LORETTA WEINBERG**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Beach and Rice**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires DHS to use NJ Elder Index and related data; appropriates \$250,000.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/28/2014)**

1 AN ACT concerning measurement of elder economic security,  
2 supplementing Title 44 of the Revised Statutes, and making an  
3 appropriation.

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

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8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that low-income elderly  
9 residents of the State are pressured by a widening gap between their  
10 increasing housing, health care, fuel, and utility expenses and their  
11 fixed incomes. Unfortunately, when income falls short of needs,  
12 the value of public support programs is often compromised by  
13 insufficient funding, low income limits, and asset limits that  
14 discourage savings.

15 The New Jersey Elder Economic Security Standard Index (NJ  
16 Elder Index) is a tool that measures the income older adults require  
17 to make ends meet and to remain in their own homes. The NJ Elder  
18 Index and related data helps elders and policymakers quantify elder  
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21 fill these gaps; evaluate current income support programs' ability to  
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32 each county of the State. The department shall further provide the  
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34 with incomes below the Index by gender, by housing status, by race  
35 and ethnicity, and by age 65 to 74 years and 75 or more years, as  
36 data sources allow. The data sources to be used shall include:

37 (1) fair market rents, published by the U.S. Department of  
38 Housing and Urban Development;

39 (2) home ownership costs, published by the U.S. Census Bureau  
40 in the American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample;

41 (3) the low-cost food plan, published by the U.S. Department of  
42 Agriculture;

43 (4) Medicare Part A and Part B and out-of-pocket costs,  
44 published by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services;

45 (5) Medicare Advantage and Part D contract and enrollment  
46 data, published by the U.S. Department of Health & Human  
47 Services;

1 (6) annual miles driven by seniors, from the National Household  
2 Travel Survey, published by the U.S. Department of Transportation;

3 (7) automobile operation costs per miles driven, published by  
4 the U.S. Internal Revenue Service;

5 (8) miscellaneous expenses, including clothing, shoes, paper  
6 products, cleaning products, household items, personal hygiene  
7 items, and a landline telephone, calculated at 20 percent of housing,  
8 food, health care, and transportation.

9 c. In addition to the core NJ Elder Index, long-term care costs  
10 shall be calculated as a significant element of elders' living costs.  
11 The department shall calculate home and community-based long-  
12 term care costs. Projections shall include weekly costs for six  
13 hours, 16 hours, and 36 hours, with and without adult day services.  
14 Data sources to be used in determining these costs shall include:

15 (1) public long-term care costs for homemakers, home health  
16 aides, case management, and adult day health services and  
17 transportation rates, provided by the New Jersey Department of  
18 Human Services; and

19 (2) private long-term care costs, published in the Genworth Cost  
20 of Care Survey and adjusted according to the Consumer Price Index  
21 published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

22 d. The department shall report the NJ Elder Index and related  
23 data for the State and each county and any other geographic unit for  
24 which index data is deemed relevant and desirable.

25

26 3. a. The department shall report on the incomes of public  
27 benefit program participants by comparing participant incomes to  
28 their local county NJ Elder Index.

29 b. The department shall refer to the NJ Elder Index and related  
30 data when:

31 (1) making recommendations for funding to the Governor and  
32 the Legislature;

33 (2) establishing public benefit income eligibility limits;

34 (3) calculating the change in economic security levels in order  
35 to benchmark the impact of public benefit programs for seniors;

36 (4) designing public outreach programs; and

37 (5) evaluating case management initiatives that capture the  
38 incomes of public benefit program participants and track the impact  
39 of the resulting economic security benefit for these participants.

40

41 4. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
42 Department of Human Services \$250,000 for the purpose of  
43 updating the NJ Elder Index and related data and performing the  
44 required comparison of household incomes to county-specific NJ  
45 Elder Indexes.

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47 5. This act shall take effect immediately.



STATEMENT

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This bill would require the Department of Human Services to use the NJ Elder Economic Security Standard Index (NJ Elder Index) as a planning tool to improve the coordination and delivery of public benefits and services to older adults residing in the State. The Elder Economic Security Standard Index was developed by Wider Opportunities for Women and the Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Boston to identify the private market cost of seniors' basic needs for every state and county in the United States.

The bill would require the department to update the NJ Elder Index annually using the most recent publicly available data on the costs to live in each county of the State. The department would further be required to determine how many single elder and elder couple households fall below the NJ Elder Index by providing demographic details of their gender, housing status, ethnicity, and age. The bill provides a list of publicly available data sources that the department would be required to incorporate into the NJ Elder Index.

The bill also requires the department to report on the incomes of public benefit program participants by comparing participant incomes to their local county NJ Elder Index. The department would be required to refer to the NJ Elder Index data when making recommendations for funding to the Governor and the Legislature, establishing public benefit income eligibility limits, calculating the change in economic security levels in order to benchmark the impact of public benefit programs for seniors, designing public outreach programs, and evaluating case management initiatives.

The bill appropriates \$250,000 to the department for the purpose of updating the NJ Elder Index and related data and performing the required comparison of household incomes to county-specific NJ Elder Indexes.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR  
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
**SENATE, No. 2231**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 9, 2015

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 2231.

As amended, this bill requires the Department of Human Services, within the limits of available funds and resources, to use the NJ Elder Economic Security Standard Index (NJ Elder Index) as a planning tool to improve the coordination and delivery of public benefits and services to older adults residing in the State. The Elder Economic Security Standard Index was developed by Wider Opportunities for Women and the Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Boston to identify the private market cost of seniors' basic needs for every state and county in the United States.

Subject to the availability of sufficient funds and resources, the bill requires the department to update the NJ Elder Index annually using the most recent publicly available data on the costs to live in each county of the State. The department would further be required to determine how many single elder and elder couple households fall below the NJ Elder Index by providing demographic details of their gender, housing status, ethnicity, and age. The bill provides a list of publicly available data sources that the department would be required to incorporate into the NJ Elder Index.

The bill also requires that, in any case in which the department reports on the incomes of public benefit participants, the department, subject to the availability of sufficient funds and resources, must compare participant incomes to their local county NJ Elder Index.

Within the limits of available funds and resources, the department would be required to refer to the NJ Elder Index data when making recommendations for funding to the Governor and the Legislature, establishing public benefit income eligibility limits, calculating the change in economic security levels in order to benchmark the impact of public benefit programs for seniors, designing public outreach programs, and evaluating case management initiatives.

The requirements of the bill are subject to the availability of sufficient funds and resources, and the department is required to

comply with the bill to the extent possible within the limits of available funds and resources.

The committee amended the bill to:

- remove an appropriation of \$250,000 and provide that the department is only required to comply with the bill’s provisions to the extent possible within the limits of available funding and resources;
- change the title and synopsis of the bill to remove references to the appropriation.
- clarify that the requirement that the department report the NJ Elder Index and related data for the State, each county, and any other relevant geographic unit, is part of the requirement that the State update the NJ Elder Index; and
- clarify the language concerning the requirement that, when reporting the incomes of public benefit program participants, the department must compare the incomes with the local county NJ Elder Index.

As reported, this bill is identical to A-3504(1R) (Lagana/Lampitt/Vainieri Huttle/Sumter), which the committee also reported favorably on this date.