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GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

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RH/CL

P.L. 2018, CHAPTER 164, *approved December 20, 2018*
Senate, No. 866 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT extending eligibility for certain individuals for emergency
2 assistance and amending P.L.1997, c.14.

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

6
7 ¹[1. Section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 8. a. Emergency assistance shall be provided only to recipients
10 of Work First New Jersey and persons receiving Supplemental
11 Security Income pursuant to P.L.1973, c.256 (C.44:7-85 et seq.) in
12 emergent situations, as determined by the commissioner, for up to
13 12 cumulative months; except that:

14 (1) the commissioner may provide for an extension of
15 emergency assistance for up to six additional months to an
16 assistance unit with dependent children, if the commissioner
17 determines that a case of extreme hardship exists. The
18 commissioner shall review each such case on a monthly basis
19 during the six-month period and shall continue the emergency
20 assistance only if the commissioner determines, based upon the
21 monthly review, that the extreme hardship continues to exist. If the
22 extreme hardship continues to exist at the end of the six-month
23 period, the commissioner may provide an additional six months of
24 emergency assistance to no more than 10% of those assistance units
25 with dependent children which are receiving temporary rental
26 assistance under the emergency assistance component of the
27 program, based upon the most current data available; **[and]**

28 (2) the commissioner may provide for an extension of
29 emergency assistance for up to six additional months to no more
30 than 10% of single adults and couples without dependent children
31 who are receiving temporary rental assistance under the emergency
32 assistance component of the program, if the commissioner
33 determines that a case of extreme hardship exists. The
34 commissioner shall review each such case on a monthly basis
35 during the six-month period and shall continue the emergency
36 assistance only if the commissioner determines, based upon the
37 monthly review, that the extreme hardship continues to exist; and

38 (3) the commissioner shall provide for an extension of
39 emergency assistance to an individual, if the commissioner
40 determines that the individual is:

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:

¹Senate SHH committee amendments adopted March 5, 2018.

²Senate amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations September 27, 2018.

1 (a) the parent or other relative of a disabled child or other
2 disabled dependent who must provide full-time care for the disabled
3 child or other disabled dependent;

4 (b) permanently disabled, including, but not limited to, a person
5 eligible for disability insurance benefits under Title II of the federal
6 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.s.401 et seq.), as defined by
7 regulation of the commissioner;

8 (c) over 60 years of age; or

9 (d) chronically unemployable as defined by regulation of the
10 commissioner.

11 The commissioner shall review each individual's eligibility for
12 emergency assistance every six months and shall continue the
13 emergency assistance if the commissioner determines, based upon
14 the review, that the individual continues to meet the criteria
15 established pursuant to this paragraph (3).

16 Any form of emergency assistance provided pursuant to
17 paragraphs (1) and (2) of this section shall count toward the
18 maximum period of emergency assistance allowed.

19 b. A person receiving emergency assistance shall contribute
20 from the person's income toward the payment of all emergency
21 shelter arrangements, including temporary housing and temporary
22 rental assistance, in accordance with regulations adopted by the
23 commissioner. As a condition of receipt of emergency assistance, a
24 person shall be required to take all reasonable steps to end the
25 person's dependency on emergency assistance and take all other
26 actions required by the commissioner.

27 c. The commissioner shall adopt regulations to establish
28 classifications for hotel or motel per diem rates in accordance with
29 the level of enhanced services provided at a participating hotel or
30 motel.

31 d. The provisions of this section shall apply to a person who
32 receives general public assistance pursuant to P.L.1947,
33 c.156 (C.44:8-107 et seq.) after the effective date of this act and is
34 subsequently transferred directly into the Work First New Jersey
35 program.

36 e. The commissioner shall require that identifying information
37 for all individuals who receive emergency assistance pursuant to
38 subsection a. of this section shall be entered into the Foothold
39 Homeless Management Information System, or a similar electronic
40 database as designated by the commissioner. The identifying
41 information shall include: individual identifier of the recipient;
42 amount and type of emergency assistance delivered to the recipient;
43 and time period in which emergency assistance was provided to the
44 recipient. The information shall be compiled by the Division of
45 Family Development on an annual basis and submitted to the
46 Legislature no later than April 1 of the current calendar year for
47 expenditures in the prior calendar year.

1 f. Recipients of emergency assistance benefits shall be
2 notified, in writing, of any termination or modification of the
3 recipient's emergency assistance benefits at least one month prior to
4 the termination or modification of the recipient's emergency
5 assistance benefits.

6 g. Section 9 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-52) shall apply to any
7 denial, termination, or modification of emergency assistance
8 benefits.

9 (cf: P.L.1997, c.14, s.8)】¹

10
11 ¹1. Section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51) is amended to read as
12 follows:

13 8. a. Emergency assistance shall be provided only to recipients of
14 Work First New Jersey and persons receiving Supplemental Security
15 Income pursuant to P.L.1973, c.256 (C.44:7-85 et seq.) in emergent
16 situations. The standards for eligibility shall be established by the
17 commissioner by regulation, except that emergency assistance shall be
18 granted to an individual or family in which the individual or family is
19 in a state of homelessness or imminent homelessness that, according to
20 a signed attestation by the applicant, is the result of imminent or
21 demonstrated domestic violence that may imperil the health and safety
22 of the individual or family. Emergency assistance shall be provided
23 for up to 12 cumulative months; except that:

24 (1) the commissioner may provide for an extension of emergency
25 assistance for up to six additional months to a family with dependent
26 children, if the commissioner determines that a case of extreme
27 hardship exists. The commissioner shall review each such case on a
28 monthly basis during the six-month period and shall continue the
29 emergency assistance only if the commissioner determines, based
30 upon the monthly review, that the extreme hardship continues to exist.
31 If the extreme hardship continues to exist at the end of the six-month
32 period, the commissioner may provide an additional six months of
33 emergency assistance to no more than 10% of those families with
34 dependent children which are receiving temporary rental assistance
35 under the emergency assistance component of the program, based
36 upon the most current data available; **[and]**

37 (2) the commissioner may provide for an extension of emergency
38 assistance for up to six additional months to no more than 10% of
39 single adults and couples without dependent children who are
40 receiving temporary rental assistance under the emergency assistance
41 component of the program, if the commissioner determines that a case
42 of extreme hardship exists. The commissioner shall review each such
43 case on a monthly basis during the six-month period and shall continue
44 the emergency assistance only if the commissioner determines, based
45 upon the monthly review, that the extreme hardship continues to exist;
46 and

1 (3) the commissioner shall provide for an extension of emergency
2 assistance to an individual, if the commissioner determines that the
3 individual is:

4 (a) the parent or other relative of a disabled child or other disabled
5 dependent who must provide full-time care for the disabled child or
6 other disabled dependent ², as defined by regulation of the
7 commissioner²;

8 (b) permanently disabled, including, but not limited to, a person
9 eligible for disability insurance benefits under Title II of the federal
10 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.s.401 et seq.), as defined by regulation
11 of the commissioner;

12 (c) over 60 years of age; or

13 (d) chronically unemployable as defined by regulation of the
14 commissioner.

15 The commissioner shall review each individual's eligibility for
16 emergency assistance every six months and shall continue the
17 emergency assistance if the commissioner determines, based upon the
18 review, that the individual continues to meet the criteria established
19 pursuant to this paragraph (3).

20 Any form of emergency assistance provided pursuant to paragraph
21 (1) or (2) of this section shall count toward the maximum period of
22 emergency assistance allowed.

23 b. A person receiving emergency assistance shall contribute from
24 the person's income toward the payment of all emergency shelter
25 arrangements, including temporary housing and temporary rental
26 assistance, in accordance with regulations adopted by the
27 commissioner. As a condition of receipt of emergency assistance, a
28 person shall be required to take all reasonable steps to end the person's
29 dependency on emergency assistance and take all other actions
30 required by the commissioner.

31 c. The commissioner shall adopt regulations to establish
32 classifications for hotel or motel per diem rates in accordance with the
33 level of enhanced services provided at a participating hotel or motel.

34 d. The provisions of this section shall apply to a person who
35 receives general public assistance pursuant to P.L.1947, c.156 (C.44:8-
36 107 et seq.) after the effective date of this act and is subsequently
37 transferred directly into the Work First New Jersey program.

38 e. The commissioner shall require that identifying information for
39 all individuals who receive emergency assistance pursuant to
40 subsection a. of this section shall be entered into the Foothold
41 Homeless Management Information System, or a similar electronic
42 database as designated by the commissioner. The identifying
43 information shall include: an individual identifier of the recipient; the
44 amount and type of emergency assistance delivered to the recipient;
45 and the time period in which emergency assistance was provided to the
46 recipient. The information shall be compiled by the Division of
47 Family Development on an annual basis and submitted to the

1 Legislature no later than April 1 of the current calendar year for
2 expenditures in the prior calendar year.

3 f. Recipients of emergency assistance benefits shall be notified,
4 in writing, of any termination or modification of the recipient's
5 emergency assistance benefits at least ²[one month] 30 days² prior to
6 the termination or modification of the recipient's emergency assistance
7 benefits.

8 g. Section 9 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-52) shall apply to any
9 denial, termination, or modification of emergency assistance benefits.¹
10 (cf: P.L.2017, c.273, s.1)

11
12 2. The Commissioner of Human Services, pursuant to the
13 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
14 seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations as the commissioner
15 determines necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.

16
17 3. This act shall take effect immediately ², provided, however,
18 that the provisions of paragraph (3) of subsection a. of section 8 of
19 P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51) shall expire of the first day of the 60th
20 month after the effective date of this act².

21
22
23

24 _____
25 Extends eligibility for certain individuals for emergency
26 assistance.

SENATE, No. 866

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Ruiz

SYNOPSIS

Extends eligibility for certain individuals for emergency assistance.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT extending eligibility for certain individuals for emergency
2 assistance and amending P.L.1997, c.14.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 8. a. Emergency assistance shall be provided only to recipients
10 of Work First New Jersey and persons receiving Supplemental
11 Security Income pursuant to P.L.1973, c.256 (C.44:7-85 et seq.) in
12 emergent situations, as determined by the commissioner, for up to
13 12 cumulative months; except that:

14 (1) the commissioner may provide for an extension of
15 emergency assistance for up to six additional months to an
16 assistance unit with dependent children, if the commissioner
17 determines that a case of extreme hardship exists. The
18 commissioner shall review each such case on a monthly basis
19 during the six-month period and shall continue the emergency
20 assistance only if the commissioner determines, based upon the
21 monthly review, that the extreme hardship continues to exist. If the
22 extreme hardship continues to exist at the end of the six-month
23 period, the commissioner may provide an additional six months of
24 emergency assistance to no more than 10% of those assistance units
25 with dependent children which are receiving temporary rental
26 assistance under the emergency assistance component of the
27 program, based upon the most current data available; **[and]**

28 (2) the commissioner may provide for an extension of
29 emergency assistance for up to six additional months to no more
30 than 10% of single adults and couples without dependent children
31 who are receiving temporary rental assistance under the emergency
32 assistance component of the program, if the commissioner
33 determines that a case of extreme hardship exists. The
34 commissioner shall review each such case on a monthly basis
35 during the six-month period and shall continue the emergency
36 assistance only if the commissioner determines, based upon the
37 monthly review, that the extreme hardship continues to exist; and

38 (3) the commissioner shall provide for an extension of
39 emergency assistance to an individual, if the commissioner
40 determines that the individual is:

41 (a) the parent or other relative of a disabled child or other
42 disabled dependent who must provide full-time care for the disabled
43 child or other disabled dependent;

44 (b) permanently disabled, including, but not limited to, a person
45 eligible for disability insurance benefits under Title II of the federal

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.

1 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.s.401 et seq.), as defined by
2 regulation of the commissioner;

3 (c) over 60 years of age; or

4 (d) chronically unemployable as defined by regulation of the
5 commissioner.

6 The commissioner shall review each individual's eligibility for
7 emergency assistance every six months and shall continue the
8 emergency assistance if the commissioner determines, based upon
9 the review, that the individual continues to meet the criteria
10 established pursuant to this paragraph (3).

11 Any form of emergency assistance provided pursuant to
12 paragraphs (1) and (2) of this section shall count toward the
13 maximum period of emergency assistance allowed.

14 b. A person receiving emergency assistance shall contribute
15 from the person's income toward the payment of all emergency
16 shelter arrangements, including temporary housing and temporary
17 rental assistance, in accordance with regulations adopted by the
18 commissioner. As a condition of receipt of emergency assistance, a
19 person shall be required to take all reasonable steps to end the
20 person's dependency on emergency assistance and take all other
21 actions required by the commissioner.

22 c. The commissioner shall adopt regulations to establish
23 classifications for hotel or motel per diem rates in accordance with
24 the level of enhanced services provided at a participating hotel or
25 motel.

26 d. The provisions of this section shall apply to a person who
27 receives general public assistance pursuant to P.L.1947,
28 c.156 (C.44:8-107 et seq.) after the effective date of this act and is
29 subsequently transferred directly into the Work First New Jersey
30 program.

31 e. The commissioner shall require that identifying information
32 for all individuals who receive emergency assistance pursuant to
33 subsection a. of this section shall be entered into the Foothold
34 Homeless Management Information System, or a similar electronic
35 database as designated by the commissioner. The identifying
36 information shall include: individual identifier of the recipient;
37 amount and type of emergency assistance delivered to the recipient;
38 and time period in which emergency assistance was provided to the
39 recipient. The information shall be compiled by the Division of
40 Family Development on an annual basis and submitted to the
41 Legislature no later than April 1 of the current calendar year for
42 expenditures in the prior calendar year.

43 f. Recipients of emergency assistance benefits shall be
44 notified, in writing, of any termination or modification of the
45 recipient's emergency assistance benefits at least one month prior to
46 the termination or modification of the recipient's emergency
47 assistance benefits.

1 include: an individual identifier of the recipient, the amount and
2 type of emergency assistance delivered to the recipient, and time
3 period in which emergency assistance was provided to the
4 recipients. The bill requires the information to be compiled by the
5 Division of Family Development on an annual basis and submitted
6 to the Legislature no later than April 1 of the current year for
7 expenditures in the prior year.

8 The bill requires recipients of emergency assistance benefits to
9 be notified, in writing, of any termination or modification of the
10 recipient's emergency assistance benefits at least one month prior to
11 the termination or modification of the benefits.

12 The bill affords those applicants and recipients whose emergency
13 assistance benefits are denied, terminated, or modified the same
14 opportunity for a hearing, to be conducted by the Office of
15 Administrative Law, as is currently provided by law for applicants
16 and recipients of benefits under the Work First New Jersey Program
17 whose claims are denied, reduced, suspended, terminated, or not
18 acted upon within a reasonable time.

19 The bill requires the commissioner to adopt rules and regulations
20 necessary to effectuate the purposes of the bill.

21 Prior to July 2015, certain individuals who were receiving
22 benefits through the emergency assistance program were granted
23 additional assistance beyond the initial 12 months of emergency
24 assistance through pilot programs, implemented by the Department
25 of Human Services. As of July 2015, the pilot programs were not
26 reissued and over 3,000 low-income individuals were left without
27 rental assistance. The purpose of this bill is to ensure emergency
28 assistance is provided to the neediest in this State for so long as
29 these individuals require assistance.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 866

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 5, 2018

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 866.

As amended by the committee, this bill excludes individuals who meet certain criteria from time limits imposed on the provision of emergency assistance benefits.

Currently, individuals who are: the parent or relative of a disabled dependent who is providing full-time care for the disabled dependent, permanently disabled, over 60 years of age, or chronically unemployable are exempt from the 60-month time limit established for the receipt of temporary assistance for needy families. However, these same individuals are not also exempt from the time limits that are imposed on the receipt of benefits under the emergency assistance program.

This bill amends current law to exclude these individuals from the time limits imposed on the provision of emergency assistance benefits. Under the bill, the Commissioner of Human Services is required to provide an extension of emergency assistance to an individual, if the commissioner determines that the individual is:

- the parent or other relative of a disabled child or other disabled dependent who must provide full-time care for the disabled child or dependent,
- permanently disabled, including, but not limited to, a person eligible for disability insurance benefits under Title II of the federal Social Security Act, as defined by regulation of the commissioner,
- over 60 years of age, or
- chronically unemployable as defined by regulation of the commissioner.

The bill requires the commissioner to review each individual's eligibility for emergency assistance every six months, and to continue the emergency assistance if the commissioner determines that the individual continues to meet the bill's criteria.

In addition, the bill requires certain identifying information for all individuals who receive emergency assistance to be entered into the

Foothold Homeless Management Information System, or a similar electronic database designated by the commissioner. The bill provides that the information entered into the system must include: an individual identifier of the recipient, the amount and type of emergency assistance delivered to the recipient, and the time period in which emergency assistance was provided to the recipients. The bill requires the information to be compiled by the Division of Family Development on an annual basis and submitted to the Legislature no later than April 1 of the current year for expenditures in the prior year.

The bill requires recipients of emergency assistance benefits to be notified, in writing, of any termination or modification of the recipient's emergency assistance benefits at least one month prior to the termination or modification of the benefits.

The bill affords those applicants and recipients whose emergency assistance benefits are denied, terminated, or modified the same opportunity for a hearing, to be conducted by the Office of Administrative Law, as is currently provided by law for applicants and recipients of benefits under the Work First New Jersey Program whose claims are denied, reduced, suspended, terminated, or not acted upon within a reasonable time.

The bill requires the commissioner to adopt rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the purposes of the bill.

Prior to July 2015, certain individuals who were receiving benefits through the emergency assistance program were granted additional assistance beyond the initial 12 months of emergency assistance through pilot programs, implemented by the Department of Human Services. As of July 2015, the pilot programs were not reissued and over 3,000 low-income individuals were left without rental assistance. The purpose of this bill is to ensure emergency assistance is provided to the neediest in this State for so long as these individuals require assistance.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2018-2019 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

The committee amended the bill to:

1) update the statutory section that appears in section 1 of the bill, so that it now reflects the new provisions that were added by P.L.2017, c.273; and

2) make minor technical corrections to section 1 of the bill – specifically, to add missing articles of grammar (“an” and “the”) in subsection e. of section 1, and to change an “and” to an “or” in the last sentence of subsection a. of section 1.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 866

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 4, 2018

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 866 (1R).

This bill excludes individuals who meet certain criteria from time limits imposed on the provision of emergency assistance benefits.

Currently, individuals who are: the parent or relative of a disabled dependent who is providing full-time care for the disabled dependent, permanently disabled, over 60 years of age, or chronically unemployable are exempt from the 60-month time limit established for the receipt of temporary assistance for needy families. However, these same individuals aren't exempt from the time limits that are imposed on the receipt of benefits under the emergency assistance program. This bill excludes these individuals from the time limits imposed on the provision of emergency assistance benefits.

Under the bill, the Commissioner of Human Services is required to provide an extension of emergency assistance to an individual, if the commissioner determines that the individual is:

- the parent or other relative of a disabled child or other disabled dependent who must provide full-time care for the disabled child or dependent,

- permanently disabled, including, but not limited to, a person eligible for disability insurance benefits under Title II of the federal Social Security Act, as defined by regulation of the commissioner,

- over 60 years of age, or

- chronically unemployable as defined by regulation of the commissioner.

The bill requires the commissioner to review each individual's eligibility for emergency assistance every six months, and to continue the emergency assistance if the commissioner determines that the individual continues to meet the bill's criteria.

In addition, the bill requires certain identifying information for all individuals who receive emergency assistance to be entered into the Foothold Homeless Management Information System, or a similar electronic database designated by the commissioner. The bill provides that the information entered into the system must include: an individual identifier of the recipient, the amount and type of emergency assistance delivered to the recipient, and the time period in

which emergency assistance was provided to the recipients. The bill requires the information to be compiled by the Division of Family Development on an annual basis and submitted to the Legislature no later than April 1 of the current year for expenditures in the prior year.

The bill requires recipients of emergency assistance benefits to be notified, in writing, of any termination or modification of the recipient's emergency assistance benefits at least one month prior to the termination or modification of the benefits.

The bill affords those applicants and recipients whose emergency assistance benefits are denied, terminated, or modified the same opportunity for a hearing, to be conducted by the Office of Administrative Law, as is currently provided by law for applicants and recipients of benefits under the Work First New Jersey Program whose claims are denied, reduced, suspended, terminated, or not acted upon within a reasonable time.

The bill requires the commissioner to adopt rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the purposes of the bill.

Prior to July 2015, certain individuals who were receiving benefits through the emergency assistance program were granted additional assistance beyond the initial 12 months of emergency assistance through pilot programs, implemented by the Department of Human Services. As of July 2015, the pilot programs were not reissued and over 3,000 low-income individuals were left without rental assistance. The purpose of this bill is to ensure emergency assistance is provided to the neediest in this State for so long as these individuals require assistance.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the bill's exclusion from the time limits imposed on emergency assistance benefits will result in a minimum \$15 million increase in State expenditures each year. However, it also is likely that the changes provided by the bill may result in a long-term increase in costs due to cumulative growth in the number of beneficiaries receiving additional emergency assistance for an unlimited amount of time.

In addition, the OLS notes that the bill's requirement to enter identifying information for all individuals who receive emergency assistance into an electronic database will result in an increase in State expenditures. The cost to collect this information will depend on the number of county welfare agencies who currently use an electronic database to track all emergency assistance beneficiaries, and if those county databases can be compiled and shared with the State. The OLS does not have information on the current status of the county databases and cannot quantify this cost, but cautions that it may be significant.

ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 866

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 18, 2018

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 866.

This bill excludes individuals who meet certain criteria from time limits imposed on the provision of emergency assistance benefits.

Currently, individuals who are: the parent or relative of a disabled dependent who is providing full-time care for the disabled dependent, permanently disabled, over 60 years of age, or chronically unemployable are exempt from the 60-month time limit established for the receipt of temporary assistance for needy families. However, these same individuals aren't exempt from the time limits that are imposed on the receipt of benefits under the emergency assistance program. This bill excludes these individuals from the time limits imposed on the provision of emergency assistance benefits.

Under the bill, the Commissioner of Human Services is required to provide an extension of emergency assistance to an individual, if the commissioner determines that the individual is:

- the parent or other relative of a disabled child or other disabled dependent who must provide full-time care for the disabled child or dependent,

- permanently disabled, including, but not limited to, a person eligible for disability insurance benefits under Title II of the federal Social Security Act, as defined by regulation of the commissioner,

- over 60 years of age, or

- chronically unemployable as defined by regulation of the commissioner.

The bill requires the commissioner to review each individual's eligibility for emergency assistance every six months, and to continue the emergency assistance if the commissioner determines that the individual continues to meet the bill's criteria.

In addition, the bill requires certain identifying information for all individuals who receive emergency assistance to be entered into the Foothold Homeless Management Information System, or a similar electronic database designated by the commissioner. The bill provides that the information entered into the system must include: an individual identifier of the recipient, the amount and type of emergency assistance delivered to the recipient, and the time period in

which emergency assistance was provided to the recipients. The bill requires the information to be compiled by the Division of Family Development on an annual basis and submitted to the Legislature no later than April 1 of the current year for expenditures in the prior year.

The bill requires recipients of emergency assistance benefits to be notified, in writing, of any termination or modification of the recipient's emergency assistance benefits at least one month prior to the termination or modification of the benefits.

The bill affords those applicants and recipients whose emergency assistance benefits are denied, terminated, or modified the same opportunity for a hearing, to be conducted by the Office of Administrative Law, as is currently provided by law for applicants and recipients of benefits under the Work First New Jersey Program whose claims are denied, reduced, suspended, terminated, or not acted upon within a reasonable time.

The bill requires the commissioner to adopt rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the purposes of the bill.

Prior to July 2015, certain individuals who were receiving benefits through the emergency assistance program were granted additional assistance beyond the initial 12 months of emergency assistance through pilot programs, implemented by the Department of Human Services. As of July 2015, the pilot programs were not reissued and over 3,000 low-income individuals were left without rental assistance. The purpose of this bill is to ensure emergency assistance is provided to the neediest in this State for so long as these individuals require assistance.

As reported, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 3294, as also reported by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the bill's exclusion from the time limits imposed on emergency assistance benefits will result in a minimum \$15 million increase in State expenditures each year. However, it also is likely that the changes provided by the bill may result in a long-term increase in costs due to cumulative growth in the number of beneficiaries receiving additional emergency assistance for an unlimited amount of time.

In addition, the OLS notes that the bill's requirement to enter identifying information for all individuals who receive emergency assistance into an electronic database will result in an increase in State expenditures. The cost to collect this information will depend on the number of county welfare agencies who currently use an electronic database to track all emergency assistance beneficiaries, and if those county databases can be compiled and shared with the State. The OLS does not have information on the current status of the county databases and cannot quantify this cost, but cautions that it may be significant.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 866

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 4, 2018

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Extends eligibility for certain individuals for emergency assistance.

Type of Impact: Annual State General Fund and county expenditure increases.

Agencies Affected: Department of Human Services and counties.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Annual Impact</u>
State Cost	Indeterminate significant increase - minimum \$15 million
County Cost	Indeterminate increase

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that this bill will result in a minimum increase of \$15 million in State expenditures each year.
- This fiscal estimate assumes that, at a minimum, 3,000 individuals will be provided unlimited emergency assistance through the expanded eligibility definition. However, the OLS also notes that the changes proposed in this bill have the potential to result in even more individuals qualifying for emergency assistance and these individuals may remain on emergency assistance indefinitely. These two factors could result in much larger expenditures by the State, but the number of individuals or the cost to provide unlimited emergency assistance for these individuals cannot be quantified.
- In July 2015, pilot programs established by the Department of Human Services (DHS) which extended emergency assistance for 3,000 individuals ended. According to the department, the cost to provide these pilot programs was \$15 million in the last full fiscal year in which these programs were in effect.
- This bill provides that individuals are no longer limited in the length of time they can receive emergency assistance if they are recipients of WorkFirst New Jersey and persons receiving Supplemental Security Income who are also: the full-time caregiver of a disabled child or other disabled dependent; permanently disabled; over sixty years of age; or chronically unemployable.

- Additionally, this bill requires that the commissioner collect certain identifying information for all individuals who receive emergency assistance. The cost to collect this information will depend on the number of county welfare agencies who currently use an electronic database to track all emergency assistance beneficiaries, and whether those county databases can be compiled and shared with the State. The OLS does not have information on the current status of the databases and thus cannot quantify this cost, but it may be significant.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill would exclude individuals who meet certain criteria from time limits on the provision of emergency assistance benefits.

Currently, individuals are exempt from the 60 month time limit established for the receipt of temporary assistance for needy families benefits if they are: the parent or relative of a disabled dependent who is providing full-time care for the disabled dependent; permanently disabled; over 60 years of age; or chronically unemployable. However, these same individuals are not exempt from the time limits imposed on the emergency assistance program.

Prior to July 2015, certain individuals who were receiving benefits through the emergency assistance program were granted additional assistance beyond the initial 12 months of emergency assistance through pilot programs implemented by DHS. According to the department, as of July 2015 the pilot programs were not reissued and over 3,000 low income individuals who were receiving assistance were notified of the end of their assistance.

Additionally, the bill requires that all identifying information for all individuals who receive emergency assistance be entered into the Foothold Homeless Management Information System, or a similar electronic database as designated by the commissioner. The Division of Family Development is to compile the information on an annual basis and submit it to the Legislature.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS estimates that this bill will result in a minimum \$15 million increase in State expenditures each year. However, it is also likely that the changes proposed pursuant to this bill may result in a long term increase in costs due to cumulative growth in the number of beneficiaries receiving additional emergency assistance for an unlimited amount of time.

In July 2015, pilot programs in DHS which extended emergency assistance for 3,000 individuals for two years beyond the statutorily established 12 month time limits of emergency assistance ended. The pilot programs were established by regulation as three year pilot programs, and the three years period concluded in July 2015. However, these pilot programs had replaced similar programs previously in effect, and the department asserted that many of the

individuals participating in the pilot programs had been receiving the emergency assistance for quite some time and had been merely rolled over from one pilot to the next.

According to the department, the cost to provide this extended emergency assistance was \$15 million in the last full fiscal year in which these programs were in effect. These funds are provided to local county welfare agencies who administer the emergency assistance program.

This bill provides that individuals who are recipients of WorkFirst New Jersey and persons receiving Supplemental Security Income who meet certain requirements are no longer limited in the length of time they can receive emergency assistance. These requirements include that the individual must be: the full-time caregiver of a disabled child or other disabled dependent; permanently disabled; over sixty years of age; or chronically unemployable. These requirements are broader than those under the pilot programs; therefore the bill may result in a much larger number of beneficiaries being eligible for unlimited emergency assistance. The OLS does not have access to data upon which to base an estimate of the potential number of these additional beneficiaries.

This fiscal estimate assumes that a minimum of 3,000 individuals will be provided unlimited emergency assistance through the expanded eligibility definition. However, the OLS also notes that not only is it likely that more individuals may qualify, but these individuals may remain on emergency assistance for an indefinite period of time. These two factors could result in much larger expenditures by the State, but the number of individuals and the cost to provide the unlimited emergency assistance for these individuals cannot be quantified.

Additionally, this bill requires that the commissioner collect identifying information for all individuals who receive emergency assistance. The cost to collect this information will depend on the number of county welfare agencies who currently use an electronic database to track all emergency assistance beneficiaries, and if those county databases can be compiled and shared with the State. The OLS does not have information on the current status of the county databases and thus cannot quantify this cost, but it may be significant.

Section: Human Services
Analyst: Sarah Schmidt
Associate 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

[Second Reprint]

SENATE, No. 866

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

DATED: NOVEMBER 1, 2018

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Extends eligibility for certain individuals for emergency assistance.
- Type of Impact:** Annual State General Fund expenditure increase. Annual expenditure increase and five-year revenue increase to counties.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Human Services and counties.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Years 1 through 5</u>	<u>Annually Thereafter</u>
State Expenditure Increase	Minimum \$5.3 million	Indeterminate
County Revenue Increase	Minimum \$5.3 million	None
County Expenditure Increase	Minimum \$5.3 million	Indeterminate

- The OLS estimates that this bill will result in a minimum increase of \$5.3 million in State expenditures each year during the five-year period that the time limit for the provision of emergency assistance benefits will be waived for certain individuals. Because county welfare agencies serve as the conduit for providing emergency assistance to the beneficiary population, the additional State expenditures will also be an equivalent revenue gain and expenditure increase to county governments.
- In July 2015, pilot programs established by the Department of Human Services (DHS) which had extended emergency assistance for 3,000 individuals ended. According to the department, the cost of the eligibility extension was \$15 million in the last full fiscal year in which it was in effect. As economic conditions have improved since FY 2015, program enrollment has declined substantially. As such, the \$5.3 million OLS estimate falls significantly below the FY 2015 cost of the pilot programs, reflecting current program data.
- The OLS notes that the provisions for the emergency assistance benefit extension under the bill are broader than those under the previous pilot programs; therefore the bill may result in a larger number of beneficiaries being eligible for an extension of benefits, and therefore

larger expenditures by the State than the OLS estimates. The OLS does not have access to data upon which to base an estimate of the potential number of these additional beneficiaries.

- County welfare agencies and the DHS may incur indeterminate annual costs extending beyond the five-year period of elongated emergency assistance eligibility in complying with the data collection and reporting provisions of the bill.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill excludes certain individuals from time limits on the receipt of emergency assistance benefits. The exclusion expires 60 months after the bill's effective date.

Emergency assistance is available to certain individuals who receive Supplemental Security Income or assistance under the Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (WFNJ/TANF) program. Currently, emergency assistance benefits are provided for up to 12 cumulative months, with certain narrow exceptions for extension under the discretion of the DHS. The bill newly exempts from the 12-month time limit emergency assistance recipients who are: the parent or relative of a disabled dependent who is providing full-time care for the disabled dependent; permanently disabled; over 60 years of age; or chronically unemployable.

Additionally, the bill requires that identifying information for all recipients of emergency assistance be entered into the Foothold Homeless Management Information System, or a similar electronic database. The Division of Family Development in the DHS is to compile the information on an annual basis and submit it to the Legislature.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS estimates that this bill will result in a minimum increase of \$5.3 million in State expenditures each year during the five-year period that the time limit for the provision of emergency assistance benefits will be waived for certain individuals. Because county welfare agencies serve as the conduit for providing emergency assistance to the beneficiary population, the additional State expenditures will also be an equivalent revenue gain and expenditure increase to county governments. In addition, county welfare agencies and the DHS may incur indeterminate annual costs extending beyond the five-year period of elongated emergency assistance eligibility in complying with the data collection and reporting provisions of the bill.

In July 2015, pilot programs in DHS which had extended emergency assistance for 3,000 individuals for two years beyond the statutorily established 12-month time limits of emergency assistance ended. The pilot programs had been established by regulation as three-year programs and had replaced similar programs previously in effect. The department asserted that many of the individuals participating in the pilot programs had been receiving emergency assistance for a

substantial amount of time and had been rolled over from one pilot to the next. According to the department, the cost to provide this extended emergency assistance was \$15 million in the last full fiscal year in which these programs were in effect.

According to Evaluation Data on pages D-209 and D-210 of the FY 2018 Governor's Budget, the emergency assistance program had an average monthly recipient base of 24,221 in FY 2015. As economic conditions have improved since FY 2015, program enrollment has declined. As such, according to Evaluation Data on page D-213 of the FY 2019 Governor's Budget, the emergency assistance program is projected to have an average monthly recipient base of 7,556 in FY 2019, a difference of 16,665 recipients compared to FY 2015. Using a proportional analysis of these data, adjusted for the approximately 3,000 beneficiaries under the pilot program in FY 2015, and data provided by the department regarding the previous pilot programs, the OLS estimates that the bill may increase State expenditures by \$5.3 million and that 1,070 individuals may receive emergency assistance through the expanded eligibility. These estimates assume that the eligibility expansion under the bill is identical to the eligibility expansion under the pilot program that ended in FY 2015.

During the five-year implementation period, this bill provides that individuals who meet certain requirements and who are recipients of WFNJ/TANF or Supplemental Security Income are no longer limited in the length of time they can receive emergency assistance. These requirements include that the individual must be: the full-time caregiver of a disabled child or other disabled dependent; permanently disabled; over sixty years of age; or chronically unemployable.

These requirements are broader than those under the previous pilot programs; therefore the bill may result in a larger number of beneficiaries being eligible for an extension of emergency assistance benefits, and therefore much larger expenditures by the State than the OLS estimated above. The OLS does not have access to data upon which to base an estimate of the potential number of additional beneficiaries.

Moreover, the OLS notes that in any given fiscal year, the number of beneficiaries under the bill, and by extension the total amount of their benefits, will correlate significantly with general economic conditions.

Additionally, this bill requires that the DHS and counties collect identifying information for all individuals who receive emergency assistance. The cost to collect this information will depend on the number of county welfare agencies that currently use an electronic database to track all emergency assistance beneficiaries, and if those county databases can be compiled and shared with the State. The OLS does not have information on the current status of the county databases and thus cannot quantify this cost, but it may be significant.

Section: Human Services
Analyst: Sarah Schmidt
Associate 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.).

ASSEMBLY, No. 3294

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 12, 2018

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE
District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Extends eligibility for certain individuals for emergency assistance.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



A3294 VAINIERI HUTTLE

2

1 AN ACT extending eligibility for certain individuals for emergency
2 assistance and amending P.L.1997, c.14.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 8. a. Emergency assistance shall be provided only to
10 recipients of Work First New Jersey and persons receiving
11 Supplemental Security Income pursuant to P.L.1973, c.256 (C.44:7-
12 85 et seq.) in emergent situations. The standards for eligibility shall
13 be established by the commissioner by regulation, except that
14 emergency assistance shall be granted to an individual or family in
15 which the individual or family is in a state of homelessness or
16 imminent homelessness that, according to a signed attestation by
17 the applicant, is the result of imminent or demonstrated domestic
18 violence that may imperil the health and safety of the individual or
19 family. Emergency assistance shall be provided for up to 12
20 cumulative months; except that:

21 (1) the commissioner may provide for an extension of
22 emergency assistance for up to six additional months to a family
23 with dependent children, if the commissioner determines that a case
24 of extreme hardship exists. The commissioner shall review each
25 such case on a monthly basis during the six-month period and shall
26 continue the emergency assistance only if the commissioner
27 determines, based upon the monthly review, that the extreme
28 hardship continues to exist. If the extreme hardship continues to
29 exist at the end of the six-month period, the commissioner may
30 provide an additional six months of emergency assistance to no
31 more than 10% of those families with dependent children which are
32 receiving temporary rental assistance under the emergency
33 assistance component of the program, based upon the most current
34 data available; **[and]**

35 (2) the commissioner may provide for an extension of
36 emergency assistance for up to six additional months to no more
37 than 10% of single adults and couples without dependent children
38 who are receiving temporary rental assistance under the emergency
39 assistance component of the program, if the commissioner
40 determines that a case of extreme hardship exists. The
41 commissioner shall review each such case on a monthly basis
42 during the six-month period and shall continue the emergency
43 assistance only if the commissioner determines, based upon the
44 monthly review, that the extreme hardship continues to exist; and

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.

A3294 VAINIERI HUTTLE

1 (3) the commissioner shall provide for an extension of
2 emergency assistance to an individual, if the commissioner
3 determines that the individual is:

4 (a) the parent or other relative of a disabled child or other
5 disabled dependent who must provide full-time care for the disabled
6 child or other disabled dependent;

7 (b) permanently disabled, including, but not limited to, a person
8 eligible for disability insurance benefits under Title II of the federal
9 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.s.401 et seq.), as defined by
10 regulation of the commissioner;

11 (c) over 60 years of age or

12 (d) chronically unemployable as defined by regulation of the
13 commissioner.

14 The commissioner shall review each individual's eligibility for
15 emergency assistance every six months and shall continue the
16 emergency assistance if the commissioner determines, based upon
17 the review, that the individual continues to meet the criteria
18 established pursuant to this paragraph (3).

19 Any form of emergency assistance provided pursuant to
20 paragraphs (1) and (2) of this section shall count toward the
21 maximum period of emergency assistance allowed.

22 b. A person receiving emergency assistance shall contribute
23 from the person's income toward the payment of all emergency
24 shelter arrangements, including temporary housing and temporary
25 rental assistance, in accordance with regulations adopted by the
26 commissioner. As a condition of receipt of emergency assistance, a
27 person shall be required to take all reasonable steps to end the
28 person's dependency on emergency assistance and take all other
29 actions required by the commissioner.

30 c. The commissioner shall adopt regulations to establish
31 classifications for hotel or motel per diem rates in accordance with
32 the level of enhanced services provided at a participating hotel or
33 motel.

34 d. The provisions of this section shall apply to a person who
35 receives general public assistance pursuant to P.L.1947, c.156
36 (C.44:8-107 et seq.) after the effective date of this act and is
37 subsequently transferred directly into the Work First New Jersey
38 program.

39 e. The commissioner shall require that identifying information
40 for all individuals who receive emergency assistance pursuant to
41 subsection a. of this section shall be entered into the Foothold
42 Homeless Management Information System, or a similar electronic
43 database as designated by the commissioner. The identifying
44 information shall include: individual identifier of the recipient;
45 amount and type of emergency assistance delivered to the recipient;
46 and time period in which emergency assistance was provided to the
47 recipient. The information shall be compiled by the Division of
48 Family Development on an annual basis and submitted to the

1 Legislature no later than April 1 of the current calendar year for
2 expenditures in the prior calendar year.

3 f. Recipients of emergency assistance benefits shall be
4 notified, in writing, of any termination or modification of the
5 recipient's emergency assistance benefits at least one month prior to
6 the termination or modification of the recipient's emergency
7 assistance benefits.

8 g. Section 9 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-52) shall apply to any
9 denial, termination, or modification of emergency assistance
10 benefits.

11 (cf: P.L.2017, c.273)

12

13 2. The Commissioner of Human Services, pursuant to the
14 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
15 seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations as the commissioner
16 determines necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.

17

18 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

19

20

21

STATEMENT

22

23 This bill excludes individuals who meet certain criteria from
24 time limits imposed on the provision of emergency assistance
25 benefits.

26 Currently, individuals who are: the parent or relative of a
27 disabled dependent who is providing full-time care for the disabled
28 dependent, permanently disabled, over 60 years of age, or
29 chronically unemployable are exempt from the 60-month time limit
30 established for the receipt of temporary assistance for needy
31 families. However, these same individuals are not also exempt from
32 the time limits imposed on the emergency assistance program.

33 This bill amends current law to exclude these individuals from
34 the time limits imposed on the provision of emergency assistance
35 benefits. The bill requires the Commissioner of Human Services to
36 provide an extension of emergency assistance to an individual, if
37 the commissioner determines that the individual is:

38 -- the parent or other relative of a disabled child or other disabled
39 dependent who must provide full-time care for the disabled child or
40 dependent,

41 -- permanently disabled, including, but not limited to, a person
42 eligible for disability insurance benefits under Title II of the federal
43 Social Security Act, as defined by regulation of the commissioner,

44 -- over 60 years of age, or

45 -- chronically unemployable as defined by regulation of the
46 commissioner.

47 The bill requires the commissioner to review each individual's
48 eligibility for emergency assistance every six months, and to

1 continue the emergency assistance if the commissioner determines
2 that the individual continues to meet the bill's criteria.

3 In addition, the bill requires certain identifying information for
4 all individuals who receive emergency assistance to be entered into
5 the Foothold Homeless Management Information System, or a
6 similar electronic database designated by the commissioner. The
7 bill provides that the information entered into the system must
8 include: an individual identifier of the recipient, the amount and
9 type of emergency assistance delivered to the recipient, and time
10 period in which emergency assistance was provided to the
11 recipients. The bill requires the information to be compiled by the
12 Division of Family Development on an annual basis and submitted
13 to the Legislature no later than April 1 of the current year for
14 expenditures in the prior year.

15 The bill requires recipients of emergency assistance benefits to
16 be notified, in writing, of any termination or modification of the
17 recipient's emergency assistance benefits at least one month prior to
18 the termination or modification of the benefits.

19 The bill affords those applicants and recipients whose emergency
20 assistance benefits are denied, terminated, or modified the same
21 opportunity for a hearing, to be conducted by the Office of
22 Administrative Law, as is currently provided by law for applicants
23 and recipients of benefits under the Work First New Jersey Program
24 whose claims are denied, reduced, suspended, terminated, or not
25 acted upon within a reasonable time.

26 The bill requires the commissioner to adopt rules and regulations
27 necessary to effectuate the purposes of the bill.

28 Prior to July 2015, certain individuals who were receiving
29 benefits through the emergency assistance program were granted
30 additional assistance beyond the initial 12 months of emergency
31 assistance through pilot programs, implemented by the Department
32 of Human Services. As of July 2015, the pilot programs were not
33 reissued and over 3,000 low-income individuals were left without
34 rental assistance. The purpose of this bill is to ensure emergency
35 assistance is provided to the neediest in this State for so long as
36 these individuals require assistance.

ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3294

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 18, 2018

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3294, with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill excludes individuals who meet certain criteria from time limits imposed on the provision of emergency assistance benefits.

Currently, individuals who are: the parent or relative of a disabled dependent who is providing full-time care for the disabled dependent, permanently disabled, over 60 years of age, or chronically unemployable are exempt from the 60-month time limit established for the receipt of temporary assistance for needy families. However, these same individuals aren't exempt from the time limits that are imposed on the receipt of benefits under the emergency assistance program. This bill excludes these individuals from the time limits imposed on the provision of emergency assistance benefits.

Under the bill, the Commissioner of Human Services is required to provide an extension of emergency assistance to an individual, if the commissioner determines that the individual is:

- the parent or other relative of a disabled child or other disabled dependent who must provide full-time care for the disabled child or dependent,

- permanently disabled, including, but not limited to, a person eligible for disability insurance benefits under Title II of the federal Social Security Act, as defined by regulation of the commissioner,

- over 60 years of age, or

- chronically unemployable as defined by regulation of the commissioner.

The bill requires the commissioner to review each individual's eligibility for emergency assistance every six months, and to continue the emergency assistance if the commissioner determines that the individual continues to meet the bill's criteria.

In addition, the bill requires certain identifying information for all individuals who receive emergency assistance to be entered into the Foothold Homeless Management Information System, or a similar electronic database designated by the commissioner. The bill provides that the information entered into the system must include: an individual identifier of the recipient, the amount and type of

emergency assistance delivered to the recipient, and the time period in which emergency assistance was provided to the recipients. The bill requires the information to be compiled by the Division of Family Development on an annual basis and submitted to the Legislature no later than April 1 of the current year for expenditures in the prior year.

The bill requires recipients of emergency assistance benefits to be notified, in writing, of any termination or modification of the recipient's emergency assistance benefits at least one month prior to the termination or modification of the benefits.

The bill affords those applicants and recipients whose emergency assistance benefits are denied, terminated, or modified the same opportunity for a hearing, to be conducted by the Office of Administrative Law, as is currently provided by law for applicants and recipients of benefits under the Work First New Jersey Program whose claims are denied, reduced, suspended, terminated, or not acted upon within a reasonable time.

The bill requires the commissioner to adopt rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the purposes of the bill.

Prior to July 2015, certain individuals who were receiving benefits through the emergency assistance program were granted additional assistance beyond the initial 12 months of emergency assistance through pilot programs, implemented by the Department of Human Services. As of July 2015, the pilot programs were not reissued and over 3,000 low-income individuals were left without rental assistance. The purpose of this bill is to ensure emergency assistance is provided to the neediest in this State for so long as these individuals require assistance.

As amended and reported, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 866 (1R), as also reported by the committee.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee performed technical amendments to make Assembly Bill No. 3294 identical to Senate Bill No. 866 (1R).

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the bill's exclusion from the time limits imposed on emergency assistance benefits will result in a minimum \$15 million increase in State expenditures each year. However, it also is likely that the changes provided by the bill may result in a long-term increase in costs due to cumulative growth in the number of beneficiaries receiving additional emergency assistance for an unlimited amount of time.

In addition, the OLS notes that the bill's requirement to enter identifying information for all individuals who receive emergency assistance into an electronic database will result in an increase in State expenditures. The cost to collect this information will depend on the number of county welfare agencies who currently use an electronic

database to track all emergency assistance beneficiaries, and if those county databases can be compiled and shared with the State. The OLS does not have information on the current status of the county databases and cannot quantify this cost, but cautions that it may be significant.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3294

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 26, 2018

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Extends eligibility for certain individuals for emergency assistance.

Type of Impact: Annual State General Fund and county expenditure increases.

Agencies Affected: Department of Human Services and counties.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Annual Impact</u>
State Cost	Indeterminate significant increase - minimum \$15 million
County Cost	Indeterminate increase

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that this bill will result in a minimum increase of \$15 million in State expenditures each year.
- This fiscal estimate assumes that, at a minimum, 3,000 individuals will be provided unlimited emergency assistance through the expanded eligibility definition. However, the OLS also notes that the changes proposed in this bill have the potential to result in even more individuals qualifying for emergency assistance and these individuals may remain on emergency assistance indefinitely. These two factors could result in much larger expenditures by the State, but the number of individuals or the cost to provide unlimited emergency assistance for these individuals cannot be quantified.
- In July 2015, pilot programs established by the Department of Human Services (DHS) which extended emergency assistance for 3,000 individuals ended. According to the department, the cost to provide these pilot programs was \$15 million in the last full fiscal year in which these programs were in effect.
- This bill provides that individuals are no longer limited in the length of time they can receive emergency assistance if they are recipients of WorkFirst New Jersey and persons receiving Supplemental Security Income who are also: the full-time caregiver of a disabled child or

other disabled dependent; permanently disabled; over sixty years of age; or chronically unemployable.

- Additionally, this bill requires that the commissioner collect certain identifying information for all individuals who receive emergency assistance. The cost to collect this information will depend on the number of county welfare agencies who currently use an electronic database to track all emergency assistance beneficiaries, and whether those county databases can be compiled and shared with the State. The OLS does not have information on the current status of the databases and thus cannot quantify this cost, but it may be significant.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill would exclude individuals who meet certain criteria from time limits on the provision of emergency assistance benefits.

Currently, individuals are exempt from the 60 month time limit established for the receipt of temporary assistance for needy families benefits if they are: the parent or relative of a disabled dependent who is providing full-time care for the disabled dependent; permanently disabled; over 60 years of age; or chronically unemployable. However, these same individuals are not exempt from the time limits imposed on the emergency assistance program.

Prior to July 2015, certain individuals who were receiving benefits through the emergency assistance program were granted additional assistance beyond the initial 12 months of emergency assistance through pilot programs implemented by DHS. According to the department, as of July 2015 the pilot programs were not reissued and over 3,000 low income individuals who were receiving assistance were notified of the end of their assistance.

Additionally, the bill requires that all identifying information for all individuals who receive emergency assistance be entered into the Foothold Homeless Management Information System, or a similar electronic database as designated by the commissioner. The Division of Family Development is to compile the information on an annual basis and submit it to the Legislature.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS estimates that this bill will result in a minimum \$15 million increase in State expenditures each year. However, it is also likely that the changes proposed pursuant to this bill may result in a long term increase in costs due to cumulative growth in the number of beneficiaries receiving additional emergency assistance for an unlimited amount of time.

In July 2015, pilot programs in DHS which extended emergency assistance for 3,000 individuals for two years beyond the statutorily established 12 month time limits of emergency assistance ended. The pilot programs were established by regulation as three year pilot

programs, and the three years period concluded in July 2015. However, these pilot programs had replaced similar programs previously in effect, and the department asserted that many of the individuals participating in the pilot programs had been receiving the emergency assistance for quite some time and had been merely rolled over from one pilot to the next.

According to the department, the cost to provide this extended emergency assistance was \$15 million in the last full fiscal year in which these programs were in effect. These funds are provided to local county welfare agencies who administer the emergency assistance program.

This bill provides that individuals who are recipients of WorkFirst New Jersey and persons receiving Supplemental Security Income who meet certain requirements are no longer limited in the length of time they can receive emergency assistance. These requirements include that the individual must be: the full-time caregiver of a disabled child or other disabled dependent; permanently disabled; over sixty years of age; or chronically unemployable. These requirements are broader than those under the pilot programs; therefore the bill may result in a much larger number of beneficiaries being eligible for unlimited emergency assistance. The OLS does not have access to data upon which to base an estimate of the potential number of these additional beneficiaries.

This fiscal estimate assumes that a minimum of 3,000 individuals will be provided unlimited emergency assistance through the expanded eligibility definition. However, the OLS also notes that not only is it likely that more individuals may qualify, but these individuals may remain on emergency assistance for an indefinite period of time. These two factors could result in much larger expenditures by the State, but the number of individuals and the cost to provide the unlimited emergency assistance for these individuals cannot be quantified.

Additionally, this bill requires that the commissioner collect identifying information for all individuals who receive emergency assistance. The cost to collect this information will depend on the number of county welfare agencies who currently use an electronic database to track all emergency assistance beneficiaries, and if those county databases can be compiled and shared with the State. The OLS does not have information on the current status of the county databases and thus cannot quantify this cost, but it may be significant.

Section: Human Services

*Analyst: Sarah Schmidt
Associate 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.).

SENATE BILL NO. 866
(First Reprint)

To the Senate:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Senate Bill No. 866 (First Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

New Jersey's Emergency Assistance Program, administered by the Department of Human Services ("DHS"), provides critical temporary housing services to vulnerable populations in the State as part of Work First New Jersey. Currently, Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits are capped at 12 months, with narrow extensions.

The bill seeks to extend EA benefits for family caretakers of disabled dependents, the permanently disabled, those over the age of 60, and the chronically unemployable by removing any time limit on the administration of temporary assistance. The bill also requires a significant period of notice prior to any change or termination of benefits.

I thank the bill's sponsors for their efforts in advocating for benefits for individuals in crisis who require housing assistance. The EA program, however, was not intended to provide lifetime housing, and will continue to serve as a poor substitute for more reliable support. I recognize, however, that past and current conditions in the housing market in the State may prevent these individuals from finding more permanent solutions. To address the continuing needs of these individuals, while also attempting to maintain the inherently temporary nature of the program, I have recommended that the bill include a sunset provision so that the extension program terminates five years after the effective date of the bill while allowing time to develop more permanent solutions to this challenge.

During this time, my Administration will remain committed to working towards permanent affordable housing. As part of that commitment, I am directing DHS, the Department of Community Affairs, which oversees the State's affordable housing programs and tracks housing needs, and the Office of Management and Budget to create new opportunities for collaboration and develop enhanced strategies in an effort to address the specific permanent housing needs of this subset of individuals. It is my hope that greater involvement at the initiation temporary assistance benefits will forge a pathway to more stable housing solutions.

Accordingly, I herewith return Senate Bill No. 866 (First Reprint) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

<u>Page 5, Section 1, Line 3:</u>	After "dependent" insert ", as defined by regulation of the commissioner"
<u>Page 5, Section 1, Line 48:</u>	Delete "one month" and insert "30 days"
<u>Page 6, Section 3, Line 12:</u>	After "immediately" insert ", provided, however, that the provisions of paragraph (3) of subsection a. of section 8 of P.L.1997, c. 14 (C.44:10-51) shall expire on the first day of the 60 th month after the effective date of this act"

Respectfully,

[seal]

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Matthew J. Platkin

Chief Counsel to the Governor



Newark, N.J.

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

08/27/2018

TRENTON – Today, Governor Phil Murphy announced that he has conditionally vetoed the following bills:

A-764/S-365 (Caputo, Tucker, Quijano, Vainieri Huttle, Sumter, McKnight, Conaway, Houghtaling/Rice, Ruiz, Bucco) – "Alyssa's Law"; requires public school buildings to be equipped with panic alarm linked to local law enforcement.

[Copy of Statement on A764](#)

A-1053/S-1429 (Houghtaling, Taliaferro, Andrzejczak/Van Drew) – Revises and expands laws on trespass and vandalism on agricultural and horticultural lands.

[Copy of Statement on A1053](#)

A-2762/S-1317 (Greenwald, Mukherji, Conaway/Ruiz, Singleton) – Revises law concerning temporary disability leave.

[Copy of Statement on A2762](#)

A-2763/S-342 (Greenwald, Downey/Cruz-Perez) – Requires additional data in annual temporary disability and family leave insurance reports.

[Copy of Statement on A2763](#)

A-3676/S-2307 (Mazzeo, Armato, Giblin/Sweeney, Van Drew, C.A. Brown) – Creates Garden State Growth Zone at Atlantic City International Airport and surrounding area; adjusts full-time employee designation requirements.

[Copy of Statement on A3676](#)

A-3683/S-2416 (Murphy, McKnight, Jones/Madden, Vitale) – Authorizes parking privileges for certain healthcare workers who render care at patients' home residences.

[Copy of Statement on A3683](#)

A-3703/S-2549 (DeAngelo/Cryan, Sweeney) – Revises ownership standards and exemptions under HVACR license law.

[Copy of Statement on A3703](#)

A-3754/S-2510 (McKnight, Speight, Barclay/Madden, Pennacchio) – Exempts persons providing hair braiding services from licensure requirement, requires registration of hair braiding establishments.

[Copy of Statement on A3754](#)

A-3808/S-2418 (Greenwald, Bramnick, Murphy/Singleton, Oroho) – Provides for prompt payment of public contracts for purchase of goods and services.

[Copy of Statement on A3808](#)

A-4118/S-1838 (Swain, Tully, Murphy/Ruiz, Diegnan) – Permits individuals to submit TDI and family temporary disability leave claims to DOLWD prior to commencement of leave under certain circumstances and requires timely payment of benefits for such claims.

[Copy of Statement on A4118](#)

ACS for A-4181/S-2722 (Jones, Murphy/Cruz-Perez) – Requires establishment of common enrollment system in renaissance school district; expands definition of urban campus area; clarifies that employees of renaissance school projects are in State-administered retirement systems.

[Copy of Statement on A4181](#)

A-4230/S-2752 (Burzichelli, Mukherji, Houghtaling, Downey/Gopal, Sarlo) – Changes use of certain revenue derived from sports wagering at racetracks.

[Copy of Statement on A4230](#)

A-4261/S-2794 (Burzichelli, Moriarty, Conaway/Sweeney, Singleton) – Provides for collection of sales tax from certain remote sellers.

[Copy of Statement on A4261](#)

A-4262/S-2795 (Pintor Marin/Sweeney) – Decouples certain provisions of corporation business tax from Internal Revenue Code; alters dividends received deduction; revises tax base of surtax on corporation business income; repeals tax on certain dividends.

[Copy of Statement on A4262](#)

S-250/A-3190 (Van Drew, Gopal/Land, Andrzejczak, Armato) – Provides tax credit eligibility for qualified businesses at certain airports under Grow New Jersey Assistance Program.

[Copy of Statement on S250](#)

S-844/A-1980 (Turner, Cruz-Perez/Sumter, Mukherji, Pintor Marin, Wimberly) – Establishes a partial return to work TDI program.

[Copy of Statement on S844](#)

S-866/A-3294 (Sweeney, Vitale/Vainieri Huttel, Mukherji) – Extends eligibility for certain individuals for emergency assistance.

[Copy of Statement on S866](#)

S-2293/A-3902 (Sweeney, Oroho, Gordon, A.R. Bucco/Benson, Burzichelli, Lampitt) – "Securing Our Children's Future Bond Act"; authorizes issuance of \$1,000,000,000 in general obligation bonds to finance certain school, school district, and county college capital projects; appropriates \$5,000.

[Copy of Statement on S2293](#)

S-2758/A-4212 (Vitale, Ruiz/Coughlin) – Increases financial resources provided through Medicaid program for certain hospitals; Establishes County Option Hospital Fee Pilot Program.

[Copy of Statement on S2758](#)

Governor Murphy announced that he has absolute vetoed the following bills:

A-3267/S-2600 (Vainieri Huttle, Pinkin, McKeon/Ruiz, Smith, Weinberg) – Establishes fee on single-use carryout bags used in certain stores and dedicates fee revenue to "Healthy Schools and Community Lead Abatement Fund."

[Copy of Statement on A3267](#)

S-878/A-3084 (Madden, Sweeney, Singleton/Greenwald, Moriarty, Jones) – Restricts authority to terminate reciprocal personal income tax agreements with other states.

[Copy of Statement on S878](#)

S-2662/A-4113 (Sweeney, Bateman/Burzichelli) – Limits liability for persons who deliver heating oil to unregulated tanks for discharges from that tank under certain circumstances.

[Copy of Statement on S2662](#)

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Newark, N.J.

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

12/20/2018

TRENTON – Today, Governor Phil Murphy signed the following bills into law:

A4782 (Johnson, Wirths, Wimberly/Sarlo) – Provides clarification on applicability of “Predatory Towing Prevention Act” to commercial motor vehicles and charging of reasonable fees for certain non-consensual towing.

S866 w/GR (Sweeney, Vitale/Vainieri Huttle, Mukherji) – Extends eligibility for certain individuals for emergency assistance.

S2531 w/GR (Beach/Jones) – Allows county governing body in certain counties to abolish offices of superintendent and deputy superintendent of elections and transfer functions to county board of elections.

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