

**44:10-51**  
**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST**

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**LAWS OF:** 2019                    **CHAPTER:** 74

**NJSA:** 44:10-51 (Allows individual to receive additional lifetime emergency assistance under certain circumstances, subject to annual allocation limits.)

**BILL NO:** S3586                    (Substituted for A5203)

**SPONSOR(S)** Stephen M. Sweeney and others

**DATE INTRODUCED:** 3/7/2019

**COMMITTEE:**                    **ASSEMBLY:** Appropriations

**SENATE:** ---

**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:** No

**DATE OF PASSAGE:**                    **ASSEMBLY:** 3/25/2019

**SENATE:** 3/14/2019

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** 4/30/2019

**FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:**

**FINAL TEXT OF BILL** (Introduced bill enacted) Yes

**S3586**

**SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:** (Begins on page 5 of introduced bill) Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**                    **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

**SENATE:** No

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

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** Yes

**A5203**

**SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:** (Begins on page 5 of introduced bill) Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**                    **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

**SENATE:** No

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

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** Yes

(continued)

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

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

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** Yes

After drawing criticism for veto, Gov. Phil Murphy expands aid to New Jersey homeless  
northjersey.com (Published as northjersey.com (NJ)) - April 30, 2019

**MONTHS AFTER VETO, MURPHY SIGNS HOMELESS AID BILL**  
Record, The (Hackensack, NJ) - May 1, 2019

Murphy signs compromise housing-aid bill  
Star-Ledger, The (Newark, NJ) - May 1, 2019

New Jersey enacts pair of laws aimed at helping the homeless  
Associated Press State Wire: New Jersey (NJ) - May 5, 2019

**NOTE:** Governor Murphy had vetoed Senate bill no. 1965.

In flurry of action, Gov. Phil Murphy rejects homeless aid bill, OKs bus safety, sex ed  
northjersey.com, January 31, 2019

**HOMELESS ASSISTANCE BILL GETS REJECTED BY MURPHY**  
Record, The (Hackensack, NJ) - February 1, 2019

Murphy vetoes bill for emergency aid to homeless  
Times, The (Trenton, NJ) - February 1, 2019

Gov. vetoes bill for emergency aid to homeless  
Star-Ledger, The (Newark, NJ) - February 1, 2019

Gov. vetoes bill for emergency aid to homeless  
The Star Ledger, February 1, 2019

RWH/JA

P.L. 2019, CHAPTER 74, *approved April 30, 2019*  
Senate, No. 3586

1 AN ACT concerning assistance and amending P.L.1997, c.14.

2

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

5

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

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

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

37 (2) the commissioner may provide for an extension of  
38 emergency assistance for up to six additional months to no more  
39 than 10 **【%】** percent of single adults and couples without dependent  
40 children who are receiving temporary rental assistance under the  
41 emergency assistance component of the program, if the  
42 commissioner determines that a case of extreme hardship exists.

**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 The commissioner shall review each such case on a monthly basis  
2 during the six-month period and shall continue the emergency  
3 assistance only if the commissioner determines, based upon the  
4 monthly review, that the extreme hardship continues to exist; **【and】**

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

8 (a) the parent or other relative of a disabled child or other  
9 disabled dependent who must provide full-time care for the disabled  
10 child or other disabled dependent, as defined by regulation of the  
11 commissioner;

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

16 (c) over 60 years of age; or

17 (d) chronically unemployable as defined by regulation of the  
18 commissioner.

19 The commissioner shall review each individual's eligibility for  
20 emergency assistance every six months and shall continue the  
21 emergency assistance if the commissioner determines, based upon  
22 the review, that the individual continues to meet the criteria  
23 established pursuant to this paragraph (3); and

24 (4) (a) subject to the requirements of subsection h. of this  
25 section, the commissioner shall provide that all months of  
26 emergency assistance received more than 84 months from the date  
27 of application for emergency assistance shall not be counted toward  
28 the cumulative 12-month limit of emergency assistance as required  
29 pursuant to this subsection.

30 (b) The Department of Human Services shall provide case  
31 management services to an individual receiving emergency  
32 assistance pursuant to this paragraph. As used in this subparagraph:  
33 “case management services” means personalized services to assist  
34 an individual or a family receiving emergency assistance pursuant  
35 to subparagraph (a) of this paragraph focusing on housing stability  
36 and delivery of services related to housing needs that can be  
37 addressed within a set time frame and available resources.

38 (c) In no case shall any individual provided emergency  
39 assistance pursuant to subparagraph (a) of this paragraph be  
40 provided a cumulative total of more than 24 months of emergency  
41 assistance pursuant to this subsection, provided that extensions of  
42 emergency assistance provided pursuant to paragraphs (1), (2), or  
43 (3) of this subsection shall not count toward the cumulative total of  
44 24 months.

45 **【Any form of emergency assistance provided pursuant to**  
46 **paragraph (1) or (2) of this section shall count toward the maximum**  
47 **period of emergency assistance allowed.】**

1       b. A person receiving emergency assistance shall contribute  
2 from the person's income toward the payment of all emergency  
3 shelter arrangements, including temporary housing and temporary  
4 rental assistance, in accordance with regulations adopted by the  
5 commissioner. As a condition of receipt of emergency assistance, a  
6 person shall be required to take all reasonable steps to end the  
7 person's dependency on emergency assistance and take all other  
8 actions required by the commissioner.

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

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

18       e. The commissioner shall require that identifying information  
19 for all individuals who receive emergency assistance pursuant to  
20 subsection a. of this section shall be entered into the Foothold  
21 Homeless Management Information System, or a similar electronic  
22 database as designated by the commissioner. The identifying  
23 information shall include: an individual identifier of the recipient;  
24 the amount and type of emergency assistance delivered to the  
25 recipient; and the time period in which emergency assistance was  
26 provided to the recipient. The information shall be compiled by the  
27 Division of Family Development on an annual basis and submitted  
28 to the Legislature no later than April 1 of the current calendar year  
29 for expenditures in the prior calendar year.

30       f. Recipients of emergency assistance benefits shall be  
31 notified, in writing, of any termination or modification of the  
32 recipient's emergency assistance benefits at least 30 days prior to  
33 the termination or modification of the recipient's emergency  
34 assistance benefits.

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

38       h. Of the total revenues appropriated to the Division of Family  
39 Development in the Department of Human Services during any  
40 fiscal year, no more than \$20 million shall be available for the cost  
41 of emergency assistance provided pursuant to subparagraph (a) of  
42 paragraph (4) of subsection a. of this section, and no more than \$5  
43 million shall be available for the cost of case management services  
44 provided pursuant to subparagraph (b) of paragraph (4) of  
45 subsection a. of this section. Nothing in this subsection shall be  
46 construed to require that emergency assistance be awarded on any  
47 basis other than by the order in which applications are received. In  
48 no case shall the monthly allotment of emergency assistance

1 awarded to any individual be reduced based on the overall limit on  
2 emergency assistance funds established pursuant to this subsection,  
3 and no additional emergency assistance shall be awarded pursuant  
4 to paragraph (4) of subsection a. of this section once the overall  
5 limit on emergency assistance funds established pursuant to this  
6 subsection has been reached.

7 i. The commissioner shall annually report to the Legislature,  
8 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), the number  
9 of recipients deemed ineligible for emergency assistance on the  
10 grounds that the individual has reached the maximum period of  
11 emergency assistance allowed pursuant to this section, and the total  
12 number of months of emergency assistance provided by the  
13 department pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

14 (cf: P.L.2018, c.164, s.1)

15  
16 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

#### 17 18 19 STATEMENT

20  
21 This bill requires that Work First New Jersey emergency  
22 assistance benefits received by an individual more than seven years  
23 prior to submitting an application for emergency assistance benefits  
24 will not be counted toward the cumulative 12-month limit on  
25 benefits that may be provided to an individual under the program.  
26 However, the bill specifies that no individual may receive a  
27 cumulative total of more than 24 months of emergency services  
28 benefits pursuant to the bill, which cumulative total will not include  
29 extensions of benefits that are available under current law to:  
30 qualifying families with dependent children; single adults and  
31 couples without dependent children who are receiving temporary  
32 rental assistance; and individuals who are disabled, are providing  
33 full-time care to a disabled child or other dependent to whom they  
34 are related, are over 60 years of age, or are chronically  
35 unemployable.

36 The Department of Human Services will be required to provide  
37 case management services to assist individuals and families who are  
38 receiving additional emergency assistance benefits under the bill.

39 Of the total revenues appropriated to the Division of Family  
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13 Allows individual to receive additional lifetime emergency  
14 assistance under certain circumstances, subject to annual allocation  
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P.L. 2019, CHAPTER 74, *approved April 30, 2019*  
Senate, No. 3586

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19 STATEMENT

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1 no additional emergency assistance is to be provided under the bill  
2 once the overall funding cap is reached.

3 The Commissioner of Human Services will be required to  
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5 assistance cases terminated on the grounds that the recipient  
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13 Allows individual to receive additional lifetime emergency  
14 assistance under certain circumstances, subject to annual allocation  
15 limits.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 3586**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 18, 2019

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3586.

This bill requires that Work First New Jersey emergency assistance benefits received by an individual more than seven years prior to submitting an application for emergency assistance benefits will not be counted toward the cumulative 12-month limit on benefits that may be provided to an individual under the program. However, the bill specifies that no individual may receive a cumulative total of more than 24 months of emergency services benefits pursuant to the bill, which cumulative total will not include extensions of benefits that are available under current law to: qualifying families with dependent children; single adults and couples without dependent children who are receiving temporary rental assistance; and individuals who are disabled, are providing full-time care to a disabled child or other dependent to whom they are related, are over 60 years of age, or are chronically unemployable.

The Department of Human Services will be required to provide case management services to assist individuals and families who are receiving additional emergency assistance benefits under the bill.

Of the total revenues appropriated to the Division of Family Development in the Department of Human Services during any fiscal year, no more than \$20 million will be available for the cost of additional emergency assistance provided pursuant to the bill, and no more than \$5 million will be available for case management services provided pursuant to the bill. Emergency assistance is to be awarded based on the order in which applications are received. In no case is the monthly allotment of emergency assistance awarded to any individual to be reduced based on the overall funding cap for emergency assistance established under the bill, and no additional emergency assistance is to be provided under the bill once the overall funding cap is reached.

The Commissioner of Human Services will be required to annually report to the Legislature the number of emergency assistance cases terminated on the grounds that the recipient reached the maximum allowed period of emergency assistance, and the total number of months of emergency assistance provided by the department.

As reported, Senate Bill No. 3586 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 5203, as also reported by the committee on this date.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) has insufficient information on the number of households that may be affected by the bill to allow for an estimate on the cost for the DHS to provide additional emergency assistance benefits and case management services, as outlined under the bill; however, pursuant to the bill, such costs will be capped at \$25 million.

County welfare agencies (CWAs) may also incur additional costs related to the processing of additional applications for emergency assistance but the increase volume is likely to be small relative to other work done by these entities. The DHS may incur some costs to fulfill the bill's reporting requirements and to make changes to the computer systems used by CWAs in order to provide information on whether an applicant's past receipt of emergency assistance occurred past the seven-year look-back period provided in the bill.

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE**  
**SENATE, No. 3586**  
**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**218th LEGISLATURE**

DATED: MARCH 21, 2019

**SUMMARY**

**Synopsis:** Allows individual to receive additional lifetime emergency assistance under certain circumstances, subject to annual allocation limits.

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

**Agencies Affected:** Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development and counties.

**Office of Legislative Services Estimate**

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Annual Impact</u></b>
<b>State Cost</b>	Indeterminate; Potential \$25 million increase
<b>County Cost</b>	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) has insufficient information on the number of households that may be affected by the bill to allow for an estimate on the cost for the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide additional emergency assistance benefits and case management services, as outlined under the bill; however, pursuant to the bill, such costs will be capped at \$25 million.
- The bill may also raise the costs of county welfare agencies (CWAs) due to a need to process more applications for emergency assistance. However, the increased volume is likely to be small relative to the volume of other work done by CWAs.
- The DHS may incur some cost to fulfill the reporting requirements of the bill and to make changes to the computer systems used by the CWAs, in order to provide information on whether an applicant's past receipt of emergency assistance occurred past the seven year look-back period provided in the bill.

**BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill requires that Work First New Jersey emergency assistance benefits received by an individual more than seven years prior to submitting an application for emergency

assistance benefits will not be counted toward the cumulative 12-month limit on benefits that may be provided to an individual under the program. However, the bill specifies that no individual may receive a cumulative total of more than 24 months of emergency services benefits pursuant to the bill, which cumulative total will not include extensions of benefits that are available under current law to: qualifying families with dependent children; single adults and couples without dependent children who are receiving temporary rental assistance; and individuals who are disabled, are providing full-time care to a disabled child or other dependent to whom they are related, are over 60 years of age, or are chronically unemployable.

The DHS will be required to provide case management services to assist individuals and families who are receiving additional emergency assistance benefits under the bill.

Of the total revenues appropriated to the Division of Family Development (DFD) in the DHS during any fiscal year, no more than \$20 million will be available for the cost of additional emergency assistance provided pursuant to the bill, and no more than \$5 million will be available for case management services provided pursuant to the bill. Emergency assistance is to be awarded based on the order in which applications are received. In no case is the monthly allotment of emergency assistance awarded to any individual to be reduced based on the overall funding cap for emergency assistance established under the bill, and no additional emergency assistance is to be provided under the bill once the overall funding cap is reached.

The Commissioner of Human Services will be required to annually report to the Legislature the number of emergency assistance cases terminated on the grounds that the recipient reached the maximum allowed period of emergency assistance, and the total number of months of emergency assistance provided by the department.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS has insufficient information on the number of households that may be affected by the bill to allow for an estimate on the cost for the DHS to provide additional emergency assistance benefits and case management services, as outlined under the bill. The bill would affect households that have received a total of 12 months of emergency assistance, at least one of which was seven or more years in the past, and have not repaid that assistance in the intervening time. There are possibly tens of thousands of households that meet this description, but many of these may never again apply for emergency assistance regardless of the bill, due to more stable housing, lack of awareness of the change in rules, or having moved out of the State. According to the FY 2019 Budget, the Executive anticipates approximately 8,000 emergency assistance cases in an average month in FY 2019. The projected monthly grant for emergency assistance ranges from approximately \$600 to \$1000, depending on the particular characteristics and needs in each case.

While the OLS cannot quantify the cost of these provisions of the bill, the bill caps the total revenues appropriated to the DFD during any fiscal year for such purposes to no more than \$25 million. Without information from the Executive, the OLS cannot predict if this funding



cap will be met through existing resources, additional resources, or a combination of the two. The OLS notes that if no additional funding is appropriated to the division for the purposes of this bill, the division may be required to shift funds from other programs to provide emergency assistance benefits and case management services, as required under this bill. For reference, the FY 2019 Appropriations Act appropriated nearly \$480 million to the division, of which over \$20 million was for emergency assistance benefits.

The bill may also raise the costs of program administration, as CWAs may need to process more applications for emergency assistance, though the increased volume is likely to be small relative to the volume of other work done by CWAs. Additionally, CWA staff will need to determine whether an applicant's past receipt of emergency assistance occurred past the seven year look-back period provided in the bill. This information is known to DHS, but would need to be distributed to the counties in a useable form, which may require some indeterminate expense to make changes to the computer systems used by the CWAs. The DHS may also incur marginal costs to fulfill the reporting requirements of the bill.

*Section: Human Services*

*Analyst: Sarah Schmidt  
Senior Research Analyst*

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

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

# ASSEMBLY, No. 5203

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 11, 2019

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI**

**District 33 (Hudson)**

**Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Assemblyman NICHOLAS CHIARAVALLOTI**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttle and Speight**

**SYNOPSIS**

Allows individual to receive additional lifetime emergency assistance under certain circumstances, subject to annual allocation limits.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/26/2019)**

1 AN ACT concerning assistance and amending P.L.1997, c.14.

2

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

5

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

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

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

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

**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 assistance only if the commissioner determines, based upon the  
2 monthly review, that the extreme hardship continues to exist; **[and]**

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

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

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

14 (c) over 60 years of age; or

15 (d) chronically unemployable as defined by regulation of the  
16 commissioner.

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

22 (4) (a) subject to the requirements of subsection h. of this  
23 section, the commissioner shall provide that all months of  
24 emergency assistance received more than 84 months from the date  
25 of application for emergency assistance shall not be counted toward  
26 the cumulative 12-month limit of emergency assistance as required  
27 pursuant to this subsection.

28 (b) The Department of Human Services shall provide case  
29 management services to an individual receiving emergency  
30 assistance pursuant to this paragraph. As used in this subparagraph:  
31 “case management services” means personalized services to assist  
32 an individual or a family receiving emergency assistance pursuant  
33 to subparagraph (a) of this paragraph focusing on housing stability  
34 and delivery of services related to housing needs that can be  
35 addressed within a set time frame and available resources.

36 (c) In no case shall any individual provided emergency  
37 assistance pursuant to subparagraph (a) of this paragraph be  
38 provided a cumulative total of more than 24 months of emergency  
39 assistance pursuant to this subsection, provided that extensions of  
40 emergency assistance provided pursuant to paragraphs (1), (2), or  
41 (3) of this subsection shall not count toward the cumulative total of  
42 24 months.

43 **[Any form of emergency assistance provided pursuant to**  
44 **paragraph (1) or (2) of this section shall count toward the maximum**  
45 **period of emergency assistance allowed.]**

46 b. A person receiving emergency assistance shall contribute  
47 from the person's income toward the payment of all emergency  
48 shelter arrangements, including temporary housing and temporary

1 rental assistance, in accordance with regulations adopted by the  
2 commissioner. As a condition of receipt of emergency assistance, a  
3 person shall be required to take all reasonable steps to end the  
4 person's dependency on emergency assistance and take all other  
5 actions required by the commissioner.

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

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

15 e. The commissioner shall require that identifying information  
16 for all individuals who receive emergency assistance pursuant to  
17 subsection a. of this section shall be entered into the Foothold  
18 Homeless Management Information System, or a similar electronic  
19 database as designated by the commissioner. The identifying  
20 information shall include: an individual identifier of the recipient;  
21 the amount and type of emergency assistance delivered to the  
22 recipient; and the time period in which emergency assistance was  
23 provided to the recipient. The information shall be compiled by the  
24 Division of Family Development on an annual basis and submitted  
25 to the Legislature no later than April 1 of the current calendar year  
26 for expenditures in the prior calendar year.

27 f. Recipients of emergency assistance benefits shall be  
28 notified, in writing, of any termination or modification of the  
29 recipient's emergency assistance benefits at least 30 days prior to  
30 the termination or modification of the recipient's emergency  
31 assistance benefits.

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

35 h. Of the total revenues appropriated to the Division of Family  
36 Development in the Department of Human Services during any  
37 fiscal year, no more than \$20 million shall be available for the cost  
38 of emergency assistance provided pursuant to subparagraph (a) of  
39 paragraph (4) of subsection a. of this section, and no more than \$5  
40 million shall be available for the cost of case management services  
41 provided pursuant to subparagraph (b) of paragraph (4) of  
42 subsection a. of this section. Nothing in this subsection shall be  
43 construed to require that emergency assistance be awarded on any  
44 basis other than by the order in which applications are received. In  
45 no case shall the monthly allotment of emergency assistance  
46 awarded to any individual be reduced based on the overall limit on  
47 emergency assistance funds established pursuant to this subsection,  
48 and no additional emergency assistance shall be awarded pursuant

1 to paragraph (4) of subsection a. of this section once the overall  
2 limit on emergency assistance funds established pursuant to this  
3 subsection has been reached.

4 i. The commissioner shall annually report to the Legislature,  
5 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), the number  
6 of recipients deemed ineligible for emergency assistance on the  
7 grounds that the individual has reached the maximum period of  
8 emergency assistance allowed pursuant to this section, and the total  
9 number of months of emergency assistance provided by the  
10 department pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

11 (cf: P.L.2018, c.164, s.1)

12

13 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

14

15

16

#### STATEMENT

17

18 This bill requires that Work First New Jersey emergency  
19 assistance benefits received by an individual more than seven years  
20 prior to submitting an application for emergency assistance benefits  
21 will not be counted toward the cumulative 12-month limit on  
22 benefits that may be provided to an individual under the program.  
23 However, the bill specifies that no individual may receive a  
24 cumulative total of more than 24 months of emergency services  
25 benefits pursuant to the bill, which cumulative total will not include  
26 extensions of benefits that are available under current law to:  
27 qualifying families with dependent children; single adults and  
28 couples without dependent children who are receiving temporary  
29 rental assistance; and individuals who are disabled, are providing  
30 full-time care to a disabled child or other dependent to whom they  
31 are related, are over 60 years of age, or are chronically  
32 unemployable.

33 The Department of Human Services will be required to provide  
34 case management services to assist individuals and families who are  
35 receiving additional emergency assistance benefits under the bill.

36 Of the total revenues appropriated to the Division of Family  
37 Development in the Department of Human Services during any  
38 fiscal year, no more than \$20 million will be available for the cost  
39 of additional emergency assistance provided pursuant to the bill,  
40 and no more than \$5 million will be available for case management  
41 services provided pursuant to the bill. Emergency assistance is to  
42 be awarded based on the order in which applications are received.  
43 In no case is the monthly allotment of emergency assistance  
44 awarded to any individual to be reduced based on the overall  
45 funding cap for emergency assistance established under the bill, and  
46 no additional emergency assistance is to be provided under the bill  
47 once the overall funding cap is reached.

**A5203 MUKHERJI, MCKNIGHT**

6

1       The Commissioner of Human Services will be required to  
2 annually report to the Legislature the number of emergency  
3 assistance cases terminated on the grounds that the recipient  
4 reached the maximum allowed period of emergency assistance, and  
5 the total number of months of emergency assistance provided by the  
6 department.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 5203**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 18, 2019

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably, Assembly Bill No. 5203.

This bill requires that Work First New Jersey emergency assistance benefits received by an individual more than seven years prior to submitting an application for emergency assistance benefits will not be counted toward the cumulative 12-month limit on benefits that may be provided to an individual under the program. However, the bill specifies that no individual may receive a cumulative total of more than 24 months of emergency services benefits pursuant to the bill, which cumulative total will not include extensions of benefits that are available under current law to: qualifying families with dependent children; single adults and couples without dependent children who are receiving temporary rental assistance; and individuals who are disabled, are providing full-time care to a disabled child or other dependent to whom they are related, are over 60 years of age, or are chronically unemployable.

The bill requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide case management services to assist individuals and families who are receiving additional emergency assistance benefits under the bill.

Of the total revenues appropriated to the DHS Division of Family Development during any fiscal year, no more than \$20 million will be available for the cost of additional emergency assistance provided pursuant to the bill, and no more than \$5 million will be available for case management services provided pursuant to the bill. Emergency assistance is to be awarded based on the order in which applications are received. In no case is the monthly allotment of emergency assistance awarded to any individual to be reduced based on the overall funding cap for emergency assistance established under the bill, and no additional emergency assistance is to be provided under the bill once the overall funding cap is reached.

The bill also requires Commissioner of Human Services to annually report to the Legislature the number of emergency assistance cases terminated on the grounds that the recipient reached the maximum allowed period of emergency assistance, and the total number of months of emergency assistance provided by the department.



As reported, Assembly Bill No. 5203 is identical to Senate Bill No. 3586, as also reported by the committee on this date.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) has insufficient information on the number of households that may be affected by the bill to allow for an estimate on the cost for the DHS to provide additional emergency assistance benefits and case management services, as outlined under the bill; however, pursuant to the bill, such costs will be capped at \$25 million.

County welfare agencies (CWAs) may also incur additional costs related to the processing of additional applications for emergency assistance but the increase volume is likely to be small relative to other work done by these entities. The DHS may incur some costs to fulfill the bill's reporting requirements and to make changes to the computer systems used by CWAs in order to provide information on whether an applicant's past receipt of emergency assistance occurred past the seven-year look-back period provided in the bill.

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE**  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 5203**  
**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**218th LEGISLATURE**

DATED: MARCH 20, 2019

**SUMMARY**

- Synopsis:** Allows individual to receive additional lifetime emergency assistance under certain circumstances, subject to annual allocation limits.
- Type of Impact:** Annual General Fund and county expenditure increases.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development and counties.

**Office of Legislative Services Estimate**

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Annual Impact</u></b>
<b>State Cost</b>	Indeterminate; Potential \$25 million increase
<b>County Cost</b>	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) has insufficient information on the number of households that may be affected by the bill to allow for an estimate on the cost for the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide additional emergency assistance benefits and case management services, as outlined under the bill; however, pursuant to the bill, such costs will be capped at \$25 million.
- The bill may also raise the costs of county welfare agencies (CWAs) due to a need to process more applications for emergency assistance. However, the increased volume is likely to be small relative to the volume of other work done by CWAs.
- The DHS may incur some cost to fulfill the reporting requirements of the bill and to make changes to the computer systems used by the CWAs, in order to provide information on whether an applicant's past receipt of emergency assistance occurred past the seven year look-back period provided in the bill.

**BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill requires that Work First New Jersey emergency assistance benefits received by an individual more than seven years prior to submitting an application for emergency assistance benefits will not be counted toward the cumulative 12-month limit on benefits that

may be provided to an individual under the program. However, the bill specifies that no individual may receive a cumulative total of more than 24 months of emergency services benefits pursuant to the bill, which cumulative total will not include extensions of benefits that are available under current law to: qualifying families with dependent children; single adults and couples without dependent children who are receiving temporary rental assistance; and individuals who are disabled, are providing full-time care to a disabled child or other dependent to whom they are related, are over 60 years of age, or are chronically unemployable.

The DHS will be required to provide case management services to assist individuals and families who are receiving additional emergency assistance benefits under the bill.

Of the total revenues appropriated to the Division of Family Development (DFD) in the DHS during any fiscal year, no more than \$20 million will be available for the cost of additional emergency assistance provided pursuant to the bill, and no more than \$5 million will be available for case management services provided pursuant to the bill. Emergency assistance is to be awarded based on the order in which applications are received. In no case is the monthly allotment of emergency assistance awarded to any individual to be reduced based on the overall funding cap for emergency assistance established under the bill, and no additional emergency assistance is to be provided under the bill once the overall funding cap is reached.

The Commissioner of Human Services will be required to annually report to the Legislature the number of emergency assistance cases terminated on the grounds that the recipient reached the maximum allowed period of emergency assistance, and the total number of months of emergency assistance provided by the department.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS has insufficient information on the number of households that may be affected by the bill to allow for an estimate on the cost for the DHS to provide additional emergency assistance benefits and case management services, as outlined under the bill. The bill would affect households that have received a total of 12 months of emergency assistance, at least one of which was seven or more years in the past, and have not repaid that assistance in the intervening time. There are possibly tens of thousands of households that meet this description, but many of these may never again apply for emergency assistance regardless of the bill, due to more stable housing, lack of awareness of the change in rules, or having moved out of the State. According to the FY 2019 Budget, the Executive anticipates approximately 8,000 emergency assistance cases in an average month in FY 2019. The projected monthly grant for emergency assistance ranges from approximately \$600 to \$1000, depending on the particular characteristics and needs in each case.

While the OLS cannot quantify the cost of these provisions of the bill, the bill caps the total revenues appropriated to the DFD during any fiscal year for such purposes to no more than \$25 million. Without information from the Executive, the OLS cannot predict if this funding cap will be met through existing resources, additional resources, or a combination of the two.

The OLS notes that if no additional funding is appropriated to the division for the purposes of this bill, the division may be required to shift funds from other programs to provide emergency assistance benefits and case management services, as required under this bill. For reference, the FY 2019 Appropriations Act appropriated nearly \$480 million to the division, of which over \$20 million was for emergency assistance benefits.

The bill may also raise the costs of program administration, as CWAs may need to process more applications for emergency assistance, though the increased volume is likely to be small relative to the volume of other work done by CWAs. Additionally, CWA staff will need to determine whether an applicant's past receipt of emergency assistance occurred past the seven year look-back period provided in the bill. This information is known to DHS, but would need to be distributed to the counties in a useable form, which may require some indeterminate expense to make changes to the computer systems used by the CWAs. The DHS may also incur marginal costs to fulfill the reporting requirements of the bill.

*Section: Human Services*

*Analyst: Sarah Schmidt  
Senior Research Analyst*

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

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



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 Newark, N.J.

## Governor Phil Murphy Signs Emergency Assistance Legislation

04/30/2019

### Governor Phil Murphy Signs Emergency Assistance Legislation

**TRENTON** – Governor Phil Murphy today signed S3585 and S3586 into law, expanding state housing aid for New Jersey's most vulnerable individuals and families.

“Every New Jerseyan deserves a safe and affordable place to live,” **said Governor Murphy**. “With these new laws, we are acting on our commitment to build stronger communities and ensure that no one in New Jersey, especially the most vulnerable among us, spends a night without a place to call home. I commend the Legislature for working with me to combat these critical issues of homelessness and housing insecurity.”

“This important legislation will help protect some of our state’s most vulnerable residents from the indignity of homelessness. I commend the Legislature for their action to put this bill before Governor Murphy for his signature today,” **said Lieutenant Governor Sheila Y. Oliver**, who also serves as Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs. “Coordinating the critical information, services and organizations that assist people experiencing homeless will be a powerful, strategic force to help fight this problem in New Jersey – because one person living on the street is one too many.”

“Ensuring that New Jerseyans at-risk of homelessness get the assistance they need when they need it is among our top priorities,” **said Human Services Commissioner Carole Johnson**. “Emergency Assistance is a vital lifeline for those at-risk of homelessness, and this new legislation includes a clear emphasis on providing support to help people getting Emergency Assistance find stable housing. With this legislation, together with the work that we are doing in Human Services to make it easier for individuals and families to receive critical services in a timely way, New Jersey is taking big steps toward helping our most vulnerable residents.”

S3585 establishes an Office of Homelessness Prevention in the Department of Community Affairs. The office will coordinate homelessness-prevention efforts among State and local agencies and private organizations and implement a statewide strategy to address homelessness. The legislation allocates \$3 million in funding for the new office. Primary sponsors of S3585 include Senate President Steve Sweeney, Senator Dawn Addiego, and Assemblywomen Lisa Swain and Eliana Pintor Marin.

S3586 allows individuals to receive additional lifetime emergency assistance under certain circumstances, subject to annual allocation limits. The legislation provides that emergency assistance benefits received by an individual more than seven years ago would not count toward the program’s 12-month limit on benefits. The bill specifies that no individual may receive a cumulative total of more than 24 months of emergency assistance, excluding extensions available under current law. The bill also requires DHS to provide case management services to assist individuals who receive emergency assistance under the bill with finding more stable housing. Additionally, the legislation limits

the total amount of assistance the state can distribute to people who had already received emergency housing aid to \$20 million. Up to \$5 million will be made available to cover the cost of the case management services required by the bill. Primary sponsors of S3586 include Senate President Steve Sweeney and Assemblymembers Raj Mukherji, Angela McKnight, and Nicholas Chiaravalloti.

The Department of Human Services is also taking action to make it easier for individuals and families who are either homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless to receive critical services and assistance in a timely way. The changes include updating guidance and proposing rule changes to make timely access to Emergency Assistance services easier for eligible individuals struggling to make rent, pay utilities or secure emergency shelter; making it easier for families experiencing homelessness to get child care; and easing barriers to enrollment for these critical programs.

“The absolute limit on Emergency Assistance for the homeless is needlessly harsh. We have a moral responsibility to help those who face the frightening threat of being forced out of their homes and onto the streets,” **said Senate President Steve Sweeney**. “This assistance can be a lifeline for the most vulnerable members of our communities who are experiencing hard times that make it all but impossible for them to meet basic needs, including food and shelter. There are homeless veterans suffering from PTSD, abused mothers with young children, and recovering drug addicts and alcoholics who find themselves out on the street and in need of our help.”

“Today New Jersey takes action to assist those in our communities that need it the most,” **said Senator Dawn Marie Addiego**. “With the establishment of the Office of Homelessness Prevention, greater resources will be available to those in need and more adequate funding will be accessible to agencies and organizations. The capability to properly evaluate the effectiveness of our efforts will allow us to better serve the thousands of New Jerseyans already homeless or in the crucial moments before they lose their homes.”

“Although New Jersey has seen a dramatic decline in homelessness over the last decade, national statistics show a 9 percent rise in homelessness in the state since 2017,” **said Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor Marin**. “Now is the time to strengthen the various efforts happening around the state to prevent homelessness by pulling these organizations and advocacy groups together. We can do more to protect our residents, especially families and veterans, from having their only option be to live on the street or in shelters. This will help us do just that.”

“The Work First New Jersey program helps our most vulnerable residents in their time of need,” **said Assemblyman Raj Mukherji**. “Without this assistance, many would be at risk of homelessness. Not only does the program give residents the means to get through hard times, but it also guides them in finding employment and activities to help them become self-sufficient.”

“Life is unpredictable, and it is not uncommon for someone to face economic hardship more than once,” **said Assemblywoman Angela McKnight**. “This legislation will help people regain access to emergency assistance benefits to get them back on their feet.”

“This law will help our fellow New Jerseyans at risk of becoming homeless gain greater access to emergency assistance,” **said Assemblyman Nicholas Chiaravalloti**. “Even for those with the best of means, no one is immune from experiencing life-altering circumstances like homelessness.”

“The only way to effectively address homelessness is to engage in an intensive collaborative effort involving all stakeholders: state policymakers, providers of services to people who are homeless, and advocacy organizations,” **said Assemblywoman Lisa Swain**. “Coordinating and funding programs to meet the needs of persons within New Jersey who are homeless or at risk for homelessness should always be a priority. If we are to tackle this issue in our communities throughout the state, this is where we begin.”

“Congratulations to Governor Murphy for stepping up to mend a hole in the safety net for our most vulnerable neighbors,” **said Diane Riley**, Executive Director of Supportive Housing Association of NJ. “Emergency Assistance only works when it can be there for people in critical moments when they need it. That can happen several times over the course of a lifetime especially for those who struggle with multiple challenges. We are so proud to work with our state leaders who understand how important every person is to our community.”

“We commend Governor Murphy and legislative leaders for coming to a resolution that will help our most vulnerable residents,” **said Staci Berger**, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Housing and Community Development Network of NJ. “For New Jerseyans who are on the verge of homelessness and simply need temporary help, this will be a critical lifeline. We applaud the Governor and legislators for taking a step in the right direction to ensure our neighbors have a roof over their head and a safe place to rest at night.”

“Our network cheers the efforts of Governor Murphy, Senate President Sweeney, and Assembly Speaker Coughlin on ensuring access to critical homelessness assistance and services for those in crisis,” **said Renee Koubiadis**, Executive Director of the Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey. “In our high-cost state, it is not uncommon for people to be housing insecure and find themselves needing temporary assistance more than once when rough times hit. Emergency Assistance is a crucial piece of the safety net to ensure a safe place to stay for our most vulnerable neighbors.”

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## Governor Phil Murphy

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