



**S2033 (2R)**

<b>INTRODUCED BILL:</b> (Includes sponsor(s) statement)	Yes	
<b>COMMITTEE STATEMENT:</b>		
<b>ASSEMBLY:</b>	No	
<b>SENATE:</b>	Yes	Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens
		Budget & Appropriations

(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))

<b>FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:</b>	No	
<b>LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:</b>	Yes	6/23/2022 7/5/2022

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

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

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** No

end

§§1-3,5  
C.44:10-81.7 to  
44:10-81.10  
§6  
Approp.

P.L. 2022, CHAPTER 30, *approved June 30, 2022*  
Assembly, No, 2363 (*Third Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning county boards of social services <sup>2</sup>**[and]** <sup>2</sup>  
2 supplementing Title 44 of the Revised Statutes <sup>3</sup>, amending  
3 P.L.2021, c.93<sup>3 2</sup>, and making an appropriation<sup>2</sup>.  
4

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

8 1. <sup>3</sup>(New section)<sup>3</sup> As used in this act:

9 “Commissioner” means Commissioner of Human Services.

10 “Department” means Department of Human Services.

11 “SNAP” means the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition  
12 Assistance Program, established pursuant to the federal “Food and  
13 Nutrition Act of 2008,” Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.).  
14

15 2. <sup>3</sup>(New section)<sup>3</sup> a. The Department of Human Services, to  
16 the maximum extent permissible under federal law, shall establish a  
17 training program for <sup>2</sup>**[each employee of a]**<sup>2</sup> county <sup>2</sup>**[board]**  
18 **boards**<sup>2</sup> of social services <sup>2</sup>**[who assists]** that assist<sup>2</sup> individuals  
19 with SNAP enrollment and recertification processes. The purpose  
20 of the training shall be to educate employees <sup>3</sup>, including  
21 supervisory and managerial employees and designated county  
22 training staff,<sup>3</sup> on current federal laws, regulations, and standards  
23 concerning SNAP, and standard best practices to comply with  
24 federal SNAP requirements <sup>3</sup>, with the goal of ensuring employees  
25 of county boards of social services are at all times in compliance  
26 with federal laws, regulations, standards, and best practices as they  
27 pertain to SNAP<sup>3</sup>. The department shall review the training  
28 program and curriculum <sup>2</sup>**[at least once every six months]** each  
29 year<sup>2</sup> and <sup>2</sup>**[shall require modification of]** may modify<sup>2</sup> the training  
30 program from time to time, as need may require, to incorporate any  
31 changes to the federal laws, regulations, and standards concerning  
32 SNAP.

33 b. Participation in the training program established pursuant to  
34 this section shall be mandatory for all employees of a county board  
35 of social services who assist individuals with SNAP enrollment 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.**

**Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:**

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AAN committee amendments adopted February 14, 2022.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted May 19, 2022.

<sup>3</sup>Senate SBA committee amendments adopted June 27, 2022.

1 recertification processes <sup>3</sup>, as well as for all supervisory or  
 2 management employees of the county board of social services who  
 3 interview, process, or review SNAP cases and designated training  
 4 staff of the county board of social services<sup>3</sup> . <sup>1</sup>~~【The chief~~  
 5 ~~administrative office of each】~~ Each<sup>1</sup> county board of social services  
 6 shall be responsible for ensuring that <sup>3</sup>:

7 (1)<sup>3</sup> all required employees complete the training program <sup>3</sup>~~【,】~~<sup>3</sup>  
 8 at least <sup>3</sup>~~【once】~~ twice<sup>3</sup> in each calendar year <sup>3</sup>:

9 (2) all newly-hired employees of the county board of social  
 10 services who will assist individuals with SNAP enrollment and  
 11 recertification processes, who will interview, process, or review  
 12 SNAP cases in a managerial or supervisory role, or who will serve  
 13 as designated training staff for the county board of social services  
 14 complete the training within one month of hire; and

15 (3) all employees who assist individuals with SNAP enrollment  
 16 and recertification processes, who interview, process, or review  
 17 SNAP cases in a managerial or supervisory role, or who serve as  
 18 designated training staff members, complete the training as a  
 19 condition of any professional promotion within the county board of  
 20 social services<sup>3</sup> .

21  
 22 3. <sup>1</sup>~~(New section)~~<sup>3</sup> The Department of Human Services shall  
 23 publish county-level case tracking data for SNAP on its Internet  
 24 website that includes, but is not limited to: application approval  
 25 rates, reasons for application denial, <sup>3</sup>~~【and】~~<sup>3</sup> average application  
 26 approval <sup>3</sup>~~【time】~~ times, and the average time between when a case  
 27 closes and when it is subsequently reopened<sup>3</sup> .

28  
 29 <sup>2</sup>~~【4. a. The Department of Human Services, to the maximum~~  
 30 ~~extent permissible under federal law, shall establish a one-year pilot~~  
 31 ~~program that~~ <sup>1</sup>~~shall~~<sup>1</sup> conduct focused outreach efforts about SNAP  
 32 benefits and <sup>1</sup>~~【provides】~~ shall provide<sup>1</sup> application assistance  
 33 to certain populations. The purpose of this pilot program shall be to  
 34 increase enrollment <sup>1</sup>~~【,】~~<sup>1</sup> among certain underserved populations  
 35 <sup>1</sup>~~【,】~~<sup>1</sup> of eligible participants in SNAP, which underserved populations  
 36 include, but are not limited to, college students, immigrants, and older  
 37 adults.

38 b. The <sup>1</sup>~~【application assistance for older adults;】~~<sup>1</sup> commissioner  
 39 shall select one county board of social services in each of the northern,  
 40 central, and southern regions of the State to participate in the pilot  
 41 program.

42 c. The pilot program may include, but shall not be limited to, the  
 43 following elements:

44 (1) the creation and dissemination of videos to educate older adults  
 45 about SNAP and the application process;

1 (2) grassroots outreach about SNAP through senior centers,  
2 hospitals, doctor's offices, houses of worship, and other **1[place]**  
3 places<sup>1</sup> where older adults may congregate;

4 (3) the provision of 'application assistance by' telephone 'for  
5 older adults;<sup>1</sup>

6 (4) the development of a social media campaign for college  
7 students that raises awareness about SNAP;

8 (5) the formation of partnerships with institutions of higher  
9 education and the higher education community, such as school  
10 administrators, professors, counselors, student health offices, campus  
11 food pantries, and financial aid officers, to raise awareness about  
12 SNAP among students and 'to' provide students with the necessary  
13 information to apply for SNAP;

14 (6) the establishment of campus representatives at institutions of  
15 higher learning who can educate students about SNAP and refer  
16 students to a local county board of social services;

17 (7) the promotion of SNAP outreach and application materials in  
18 different languages through organizations and faith-based communities  
19 that serve immigrants; and

20 (8) outreach through social and traditional media, especially non-  
21 English media, to reach immigrant populations.

22 d. At the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner shall  
23 submit a report to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to  
24 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), on the implementation,  
25 outcomes, and effectiveness of the pilot program. The report shall  
26 include the commissioner's recommendation on the advisability of the  
27 program's continuation and expansion to additional county boards of  
28 social services in the State. ]<sup>2</sup>

29  
30 <sup>3</sup>4. Section 1 of P.L.2021, c.93 (C.44:10-81.2) is amended to  
31 read as follows:

32 1. a. Consistent with federal law, the Commissioner of Human  
33 Services shall permit applicants for **1[the Supplemental Nutrition**  
34 **Assistance Program, established pursuant to the "Food and**  
35 **Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L. 110-246 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.)]**  
36 SNAP, to apply by phone, electronic device, or kiosk, as well as for  
37 employees of county welfare agencies and county boards of social  
38 services to conduct SNAP interviews by telephone, electronic  
39 device, or kiosk. The commissioner shall establish requirements to  
40 ensure the security and privacy of applications submitted, and  
41 interviews conducted, by telephone or using an electronic device or  
42 kiosk pursuant to this section.

43 b. The commissioner shall:

44 (1) consult with county welfare agencies and county boards of  
45 social services to create an electronic record information processing  
46 system to process **1[telephonic]** applications submitted for **1[the**  
47 **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program]** SNAP using  
48 telephones, electronic devices, and kiosks and for interviews

1 conducted using telephones, electronic devices, and kiosks pursuant  
 2 to subsection a. of this section, and ensure **the system is** such  
 3 systems are in compliance with federal standards; and

4 (2) apply and receive approval for such waivers as may be  
 5 necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

6 c. County welfare agencies and county boards of social  
 7 services shall designate an employee of the agency or board as the  
 8 agency's or board's county social service liaison. County social  
 9 service liaisons shall be responsible for consulting with institutions  
 10 of higher education and the higher education community to assist  
 11 with any technical assistance questions from SNAP applicants and  
 12 from the county welfare agency or county board of social services  
 13 arising from the use of telephones, electronic devices, and kiosks in  
 14 connection with SNAP applications and SNAP interviews.

15 d. As used in this section:

16 "Electronic device" means a desktop or laptop computer, mobile  
 17 phone, tablet, or any other Internet-connected device that is capable  
 18 of electronically receiving and transmitting the information  
 19 necessary to process an application for benefits under the  
 20 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

21 "SNAP" means the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition  
 22 Assistance Program, established pursuant to the federal "Food and  
 23 Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.).<sup>3</sup>

24 (cf: P.L.2021, c.93, s.1)

25

26 <sup>2</sup>**[5.]** <sup>3</sup>**[4.]** 5. (New section)<sup>3</sup> a.<sup>2</sup> The Commissioner of Human  
 27 Services shall <sup>2</sup>]:

28 <sup>1</sup>**[(a)] a.<sup>1</sup>**<sup>2</sup> apply to the Food and Nutrition Service within the  
 29 United States Department of Agriculture for any necessary waivers  
 30 or approvals to implement the provisions of this act <sup>2</sup>**]; and ]<sup>2</sup>.**

31 <sup>1</sup>**[(b)] b.<sup>1</sup>** <sup>2</sup>The commissioner may<sup>2</sup> adopt rules and regulations  
 32 <sup>2</sup>**],** pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.140  
 33 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.),<sup>2</sup> as may be necessary to effectuate the  
 34 provisions of this act <sup>2</sup>, which rules and regulations shall be  
 35 effective immediately upon filing with the Office of Administrative  
 36 Law for a period not to exceed 18 months, and may, thereafter, be  
 37 amended, adopted, or readopted in accordance with the provisions  
 38 of the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-  
 39 1 et seq.)<sup>2</sup>.

40 <sup>3</sup>**c.** The commissioner shall annually request funding in an  
 41 amount as shall be necessary and appropriate to support additional  
 42 funding for county call centers to address technical assistance  
 43 questions from SNAP applicants, county welfare agencies, and  
 44 county boards of social services arising from the use of telephones,  
 45 electronic devices, and kiosks in connection with SNAP  
 46 applications and SNAP interviews pursuant to section 2 of P.L. ,  
 47 c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).<sup>3</sup>

1       <sup>3</sup>[25.] 6.<sup>3</sup> There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
2 Department of Human Services the sum of \$250,000 for the  
3 purposes of effectuating the provisions of this act.<sup>2</sup>

4

5       <sup>3</sup>[6.] 7.<sup>3</sup> This act shall take effect immediately.

6

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10       Concerns SNAP services provided at county boards of social  
11 services and county welfare agencies; appropriates \$250,000.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2363

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 7, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman PEDRO MEJIA**

**District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)**

**Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Concerns SNAP services provided at county boards of social services.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.





1 AN ACT concerning county boards of social services and  
2 supplementing Title 44 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. As used in this act:

8 “Commissioner” means Commissioner of Human Services.

9 “Department” means Department of Human Services.

10 “SNAP” means the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition  
11 Assistance Program, established pursuant to the federal “Food and  
12 Nutrition Act of 2008,” Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.).

13

14 2. a. The Department of Human Services, to the maximum  
15 extent permissible under federal law, shall establish a training  
16 program for each employee of a county board of social services  
17 who assists individuals with SNAP enrollment and recertification  
18 processes. The purpose of the training shall be to educate  
19 employees on current federal laws, regulations, and standards  
20 concerning SNAP, and standard best practices to comply with  
21 federal SNAP requirements. The department shall review the  
22 training program and curriculum at least once every six months and  
23 shall require modification of the training program from time to  
24 time, as need may require, to incorporate any changes to the federal  
25 laws, regulations, and standards concerning SNAP.

26 b. Participation in the training program established pursuant to  
27 this section shall be mandatory for all employees of a county board  
28 of social services who assist individuals with SNAP enrollment and  
29 recertification processes. The chief administrative office of each  
30 county board of social services shall be responsible for ensuring  
31 that all required employees complete the training program, at least  
32 once in each calendar year.

33

34 3. The Department of Human Services shall publish county-  
35 level case tracking data for SNAP on its Internet website that  
36 includes, but is not limited to: application approval rates, reasons  
37 for application denial, and average application approval time.

38

39 4. a. The Department of Human Services, to the maximum  
40 extent permissible under federal law, shall establish a one-year pilot  
41 program that conduct focused outreach efforts about SNAP benefits  
42 and provides application assistance to certain populations. The  
43 purpose of this pilot program shall be to increase enrollment, among  
44 certain underserved populations, of eligible participants in SNAP,  
45 which underserved populations include, but are not limited to,  
46 college students, immigrants, and older adults.

47 b. The application assistance for older adults; commissioner  
48 shall select one county board of social services in each of the

1 northern, central, and southern regions of the State to participate in  
2 the pilot program.

3 c. The pilot program may include, but shall not be limited to,  
4 the following elements:

5 (1) the creation and dissemination of videos to educate older  
6 adults about SNAP and the application process;

7 (2) grassroots outreach about SNAP through senior centers,  
8 hospitals, doctor's offices, houses of worship, and other place  
9 where older adults may congregate;

10 (3) the provision of telephone

11 (4) the development of a social media campaign for college  
12 students that raises awareness about SNAP;

13 (5) the formation of partnerships with institutions of higher  
14 education and the higher education community, such as school  
15 administrators, professors, counselors, student health offices,  
16 campus food pantries, and financial aid officers, to raise awareness  
17 about SNAP among students and provide students with the  
18 necessary information to apply for SNAP;

19 (6) the establishment of campus representatives at institutions of  
20 higher learning who can educate students about SNAP and refer  
21 students to a local county board of social services;

22 (7) the promotion of SNAP outreach and application materials  
23 in different languages through organizations and faith-based  
24 communities that serve immigrants; and

25 (8) outreach through social and traditional media, especially  
26 non-English media, to reach immigrant populations.

27 d. At the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner  
28 shall submit a report to the Governor, and to the Legislature  
29 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), on the  
30 implementation, outcomes, and effectiveness of the pilot program.  
31 The report shall include the commissioner's recommendation on the  
32 advisability of the program's continuation and expansion to  
33 additional county boards of social services in the State.

34

35 5. The Commissioner of Human Services shall:

36 (a) apply to the Food and Nutrition Service within the United  
37 States Department of Agriculture for any necessary waivers or  
38 approvals to implement the provisions of this act; and

39 (b) adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative  
40 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.140 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be  
41 necessary to effectuate the provisions of this act.

42

43 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

44

45

46

#### STATEMENT

47

48 This bill would require the Department of Human Services  
49 (department), to the maximum extent permissible under federal law,

1 to establish a training program for each employee of a county board  
2 of social services who assists individuals with the SNAP enrollment  
3 and recertification process. The purpose of the training will be to  
4 educate employees on current federal laws, regulations, and  
5 standards concerning SNAP, and standard best practices to comply  
6 with federal SNAP requirements. The department will review the  
7 training program and curriculum at least once every six months and  
8 will modify the training program from time to time, as necessary, to  
9 incorporate any changes to the federal laws, regulations, and  
10 standards concerning SNAP. Participation in the training program  
11 will be mandatory for all employees of a county board of social  
12 services who assist individuals with the SNAP enrollment and  
13 recertification process. The chief administrative office of each  
14 county board of social services will be responsible for ensuring that  
15 all required employees complete the training program, at least once  
16 in each calendar year.

17 This bill also requires the department to publish county-level  
18 case tracking data on SNAP on its Internet website that includes,  
19 but is not limited to: application approval rates, reasons for  
20 application denial, and average application approval time.

21 Finally, the bill requires the department, to the maximum extent  
22 permissible under federal law, to establish a one-year pilot program  
23 that conducts focused outreach efforts about eligibility for SNAP  
24 benefits and provides application assistance to certain populations.  
25 The purpose of this program is to increase enrollment, among  
26 certain underserved populations, of eligible participants in SNAP.  
27 These underserved populations include, but are not limited to,  
28 college students, immigrants, and older adults. The Commissioner  
29 of Human Services (commissioner) will select one county board of  
30 social services in each of the northern, central, and southern regions  
31 of the State to participate in the pilot program. The pilot program  
32 may include, but shall not be limited to, the following elements:

33 (1) the creation and dissemination of videos to educate older  
34 adults about SNAP and the application process;

35 (2) grassroots outreach about SNAP through senior centers,  
36 hospitals, doctor's offices, houses of worship, and other place  
37 where older adults may congregate;

38 (3) the provision of telephone application assistance for older  
39 adults;

40 (4) the development of a social media campaign for college  
41 students that raises awareness about SNAP;

42 (5) the formation of partnerships with institutions of higher  
43 education and the higher education community, such as school  
44 administrators, professors, counselors, student health offices,  
45 campus food pantries, and financial aid officers, to raise awareness  
46 about SNAP among students and provide students with the  
47 necessary information to apply for SNAP;

1       (6) the establishment of campus representatives at institutions of  
2 higher learning who can educate students about SNAP and refer  
3 students to a local county board of social services;

4       (7) the promotion of SNAP outreach and application materials  
5 in different languages through organizations and faith-based  
6 communities that serve immigrants; and

7       (8) outreach through social and traditional media, especially  
8 non-English media, to reach immigrant populations.

9       At the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner will be  
10 required to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature on the  
11 implementation, outcomes, and effectiveness of the pilot program.  
12 The report will include the commissioner's recommendation on the  
13 advisability of the program's continuation and expansion to  
14 additional county boards of social services in the State. The  
15 commissioner will also be required to apply to the Food and  
16 Nutrition Service within the United States Department of  
17 Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement  
18 the provisions of this act.

ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 2363**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 14, 2022

The Assembly Agriculture and Food Security Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2363, with committee amendments.

This bill, as amended, would require the Department of Human Services (department), to the maximum extent permissible under federal law, to establish a training program for each employee of a county board of social services who assists individuals with the SNAP enrollment and recertification process. The purpose of the training will be to educate employees on current federal laws, regulations, and standards concerning SNAP, and standard best practices to comply with federal SNAP requirements. The department will review the training program and curriculum at least once every six months and will modify the training program from time to time, as necessary, to incorporate any changes to the federal laws, regulations, and standards concerning SNAP. Participation in the training program will be mandatory for all employees of a county board of social services who assist individuals with the SNAP enrollment and recertification process. Each county board of social services will be responsible for ensuring that all required employees complete the training program, at least once in each calendar year.

This bill, as amended, also requires the department to publish county-level case tracking data on SNAP on its Internet website that includes, but is not limited to: application approval rates, reasons for application denial, and average application approval time.

Finally, the bill, as amended, requires the department, to the maximum extent permissible under federal law, to establish a one-year pilot program that would conduct focused outreach efforts about eligibility for SNAP benefits and would provide application assistance to certain populations. The bill, as amended, specifies that the purpose of this program is to increase enrollment among certain underserved populations of eligible participants in SNAP. These underserved populations include, but are not limited to, college students, immigrants, and older adults. The Commissioner of Human Services (commissioner) will select one county board of social services in each of the northern, central, and southern regions of the State to participate

in the pilot program. The pilot program may include, but shall not be limited to, the following elements:

(1) the creation and dissemination of videos to educate older adults about SNAP and the application process;

(2) grassroots outreach about SNAP through senior centers, hospitals, doctor's offices, houses of worship, and other place where older adults may congregate;

(3) the provision of application assistance by telephone for older adults;

(4) the development of a social media campaign for college students that raises awareness about SNAP;

(5) the formation of partnerships with institutions of higher education and the higher education community, such as school administrators, professors, counselors, student health offices, campus food pantries, and financial aid officers, to raise awareness about SNAP among students and to provide students with the necessary information to apply for SNAP;

(6) the establishment of campus representatives at institutions of higher learning who can educate students about SNAP and refer students to a local county board of social services;

(7) the promotion of SNAP outreach and application materials in different languages through organizations and faith-based communities that serve immigrants; and

(8) outreach through social and traditional media, especially non-English media, to reach immigrant populations.

At the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner will be required to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature on the implementation, outcomes, and effectiveness of the pilot program. The report will include the commissioner's recommendation on the advisability of the program's continuation and expansion to additional county boards of social services in the State. The commissioner will also be required to apply to the Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement the provisions of this act.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amendments:

1) clarify that the pilot program would provide application assistance by telephone for older adults; and

2) make other technical and clarifying corrections.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

## ASSEMBLY, No. 2363

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: MARCH 22, 2022

#### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Concerns SNAP services provided at county board of social services.
- Type of Impact:** Potential increase in State expenditures and revenues; potential increase in county costs.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Human Services, County Boards of Social Services.

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Annual</u></b>
<b>Potential State Cost Increase</b>	Indeterminate
<b>Potential State Revenue Increase</b>	Indeterminate
<b>Potential County Cost Increase</b>	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that the Department of Human Services (DHS) will potentially realize higher administrative costs in order to establish the SNAP training program for employees of County Boards of Social Services, publish certain county-level SNAP data on the DHS website, and establish and oversee the focused outreach pilot program to increase SNAP enrollment among certain vulnerable populations.
- State revenues will likely increase under the bill, since the federal government provides matching funds for qualifying State administrative expenditures under SNAP. Any revenue increase from the receipt of federal matching funds will depend upon the extent to which the State allocates ARPA funding to help offset higher SNAP administrative costs stemming from this bill.
- County Boards of Social Services may also realize increased costs, pursuant to a provision in the bill that requires each County Board of Social Services to ensure that all employees who assist individuals with the SNAP enrollment and recertification processes complete the SNAP training program newly established under the bill.

## **BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill would require the DHS, to the maximum extent permissible under federal law, to establish a training program for each employee of a County Board of Social Services who assists individuals with the SNAP enrollment and recertification process. The purpose of the training will be to educate employees on current federal laws, regulations, and standards concerning SNAP, and best practices to comply with federal SNAP requirements. The DHS is required to periodically review and modify the training program, as needed, to incorporate any changes to federal SNAP laws, regulations, and standards. Each County Board of Social Services is responsible for ensuring that all required employees complete the training program, at least once in each calendar year.

The bill additionally requires the DHS to publish county-level case tracking data for SNAP on its website, including: application approval rates, reasons for application denial, and average application approval time.

Finally, the DHS is to establish a one-year pilot program in order to conduct focused outreach and provide SNAP application assistance to certain underserved populations. The goal of the pilot program, which will operate in three counties across the State, is to increase enrollment among underserved populations of eligible SNAP participants, including, but not limited to, college students, immigrants, and older adults.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

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

The OLS concludes that the DHS will potentially realize higher administrative costs in order to establish the SNAP training program for employees of County Boards of Social Services, publish certain county-level SNAP data on the DHS website, and establish and oversee the focused outreach pilot program to increase SNAP enrollment among certain vulnerable populations.

Since the federal government shares all administrative expenses with the State, the requirements under this bill may increase in State revenues by an indeterminate amount. Any increase in SNAP benefits resulting from the requirements under the bill would not have any fiscal impact on the State, as SNAP benefits are paid directly from federal funds.

The OLS notes that the federal ARPA provides \$1.135 billion over a three-year period for state SNAP administrative costs in order to partially alleviate increased public demand for benefits resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. This additional federal funding does not require that states provide matching funds for eligible SNAP administrative expenditures. Between FY 2021 and FY 2022, New Jersey is scheduled to receive \$21 million under ARPA for SNAP administrative costs. By comparison, total SNAP administrative costs incurred by the State in FY 2019 totaled \$326.8 million. Furthermore, guidance from the United States Department of Agriculture, which administers SNAP at the federal level, directs states to utilize ARPA funds for the following purposes, which largely align with the provisions of this bill: explore opportunities to improve service delivery and access for vulnerable populations; revise SNAP outreach materials to ensure program information is clear, concise, and easy to access; and invest in technology to



improve client access to SNAP. To the extent that the DHS utilizes ARPA funding to meet the requirements under this bill, State costs incurred will decrease, and may potentially be eliminated.

*Section: Human Services*

*Analyst: Anne Cappabianca  
Associate Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Thomas Koenig  
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

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

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

# ASSEMBLY HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2363**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MAY 12, 2022

The Assembly Human Services Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2363 (1R).

This bill, would require the Department of Human Services (department), to the maximum extent permissible under federal law, to establish a training program for each employee of a county board of social services who assists individuals with the SNAP enrollment and recertification process. The purpose of the training will be to educate employees on current federal laws, regulations, and standards concerning SNAP, and standard best practices to comply with federal SNAP requirements. The department will review the training program and curriculum at least once every six months and will modify the training program from time to time, as necessary, to incorporate any changes to the federal laws, regulations, and standards concerning SNAP. Participation in the training program will be mandatory for all employees of a county board of social services who assist individuals with the SNAP enrollment and recertification process. Each county board of social services will be responsible for ensuring that all required employees complete the training program, at least once in each calendar year.

This bill also requires the department to publish county-level case tracking data on SNAP on its Internet website that includes, but is not limited to: application approval rates, reasons for application denial, and average application approval time.

Finally, the bill requires the department, to the maximum extent permissible under federal law, to establish a one-year pilot program that would conduct focused outreach efforts about eligibility for SNAP benefits and would provide application assistance to certain populations. The bill specifies that the purpose of this program is to increase enrollment among certain underserved populations of eligible participants in SNAP. These underserved populations include, but are not limited to, college students, immigrants, and older adults. The Commissioner of Human Services (commissioner) will select one county board of social services in each of the northern, central, and southern regions of the State to participate in the pilot program. The pilot program may include, but shall not be limited to, the following elements:

(1) the creation and dissemination of videos to educate older adults about SNAP and the application process;

(2) grassroots outreach about SNAP through senior centers, hospitals, doctor's offices, houses of worship, and other place where older adults may congregate;

(3) the provision of application assistance by telephone for older adults;

(4) the development of a social media campaign for college students that raises awareness about SNAP;

(5) the formation of partnerships with institutions of higher education and the higher education community, such as school administrators, professors, counselors, student health offices, campus food pantries, and financial aid officers, to raise awareness about SNAP among students and to provide students with the necessary information to apply for SNAP;

(6) the establishment of campus representatives at institutions of higher learning who can educate students about SNAP and refer students to a local county board of social services;

(7) the promotion of SNAP outreach and application materials in different languages through organizations and faith-based communities that serve immigrants; and

(8) outreach through social and traditional media, especially non-English media, to reach immigrant populations.

At the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner will be required to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature on the implementation, outcomes, and effectiveness of the pilot program. The report will include the commissioner's recommendation on the advisability of the program's continuation and expansion to additional county boards of social services in the State. The commissioner will also be required to apply to the Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement the provisions of this act.

# ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

## ASSEMBLY, No. 2363

with committee amendments

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 19, 2022

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2363 (1R) with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill would require the Department of Human Services (department), to the maximum extent permissible under federal law, to establish a training program for county boards of social services that assist individuals with the SNAP enrollment and recertification process. The purpose of the training will be to educate employees on current federal laws, regulations, and standards concerning SNAP, and standard best practices to comply with federal SNAP requirements. The department will review the training program and curriculum each year and may modify the training program from time to time, as necessary, to incorporate any changes to the federal laws, regulations, and standards concerning SNAP. Participation in the training program will be mandatory for all employees of a county board of social services who assist individuals with the SNAP enrollment and recertification process. Each county board of social services will be responsible for ensuring that all required employees complete the training program, at least once in each calendar year.

This bill requires the department to publish county-level case tracking data on SNAP on its Internet website that includes, but is not limited to: application approval rates, reasons for application denial, and average application approval time.

As amended, the bill requires the Commissioner of Human Services to apply to the Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement the provisions of the bill. The commissioner may adopt rules and regulations as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of this act, which rules and regulations will be effective immediately upon filing with the Office of Administrative Law for a period not to exceed 18 months, and may, thereafter, be amended, adopted, or readopted in accordance with the provisions of the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).

As amended, this bill appropriates from the State's General Fund the sum of \$250,000 to the Department of Human Services to effectuate the provisions of the bill.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments clarify that the training program established by the bill will be for county boards of social services that assist individuals with SNAP enrollment and recertification processes. The committee amendments provide that that the Department of Human Services (department) will review the training program and curriculum each year, instead of once every six months as originally provided in the bill, and the amendments clarify that the department may modify the training program as necessary.

The committee amendments remove provisions of the bill that would have required the department to establish a one-year pilot program to conduct focused outreach efforts about SNAP benefits and to provide application assistance to certain populations.

The committee amendments clarify that the Commissioner of Human Services may adopt rules and regulations as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of the bill, which rules and regulations will be effective immediately upon filing with the Office of Administrative Law for a period not to exceed 18 months, and may, thereafter, be amended, adopted or readopted in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act.

The committee amendments appropriate from the State's General Fund the sum of \$250,000 to the Department of Human Services to effectuate the provisions of the bill.

The committee amendments make various technical changes to the bill concerning formatting and grammar and update the bill's title and synopsis.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services concludes that the Department of Human Services (DHS) will potentially realize higher administrative costs in order to establish the SNAP training program for employees of County Boards of Social Services and publish certain county level SNAP data on the DHS website.

State revenues will likely increase under the bill, since the federal government provides matching funds for qualifying State administrative expenditures under SNAP.

County Boards of Social Services may also realize increased costs, pursuant to a provision in the bill that requires each County Board of Social Services to ensure that all employees who assist individuals with the SNAP enrollment and recertification processes complete the SNAP training program newly established under the bill.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Second Reprint]

## ASSEMBLY, No. 2363

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: MAY 27, 2022

#### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Concerns SNAP services provided at county boards of social services; appropriates \$250,000.
- Type of Impact:** State expenditure increase; potential increase in State revenues; potential increase in county costs.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Human Services, county boards of social services.

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Annual</u></b>
<b>State Cost Increase</b>	Indeterminate, minimum of \$250,000
<b>Potential State Revenue Increase</b>	Indeterminate
<b>Potential County Cost Increase</b>	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services concludes that the Department of Human Services (DHS) will potentially realize higher administrative costs in order to establish the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) training program for employees of County Boards of Social Services, annually review and update the training program and curriculum, as needed, and publish certain county-level SNAP data on the department's website. Although the bill appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund for the department to implement these requirements, the State may potentially use federal funding under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to partially, if not completely, offset any SNAP administrative costs that exceed the amount of the appropriation; therefore, the OLS cannot determine the net fiscal impact to the State.
- State revenues will likely increase under the bill, since the federal government provides matching funds for qualifying State administrative expenditures under SNAP. Any revenue increase from the receipt of federal matching funds will depend upon whether the programs established under the bill receive federal waiver approval, and the extent to which the State allocates federal ARPA funding to help offset higher SNAP administrative costs stemming from this bill.

- County Boards of Social Services may also realize increased costs, pursuant to a provision in the bill that requires each County Board of Social Services to ensure that all employees who assist individuals with the SNAP enrollment and recertification processes complete the SNAP training program newly established under the bill.

## **BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill would require the DHS, to the maximum extent permissible under federal law, to establish a training program for each employee of a County Board of Social Services who assists individuals with the SNAP enrollment and recertification process. The purpose of the training will be to educate employees on current federal laws, regulations, and standards concerning SNAP, and best practices to comply with federal SNAP requirements. The department is required to periodically review and modify the training program, as needed, to incorporate any changes to federal SNAP laws, regulations, and standards. Each County Board of Social Services is responsible for ensuring that all required employees complete the training program at least once in each calendar year.

The bill additionally requires the department to publish county-level case tracking data for SNAP on its website, including: application approval rates, reasons for application denial, and average application approval time.

The bill directs the Commissioner of Human Services to apply to the Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for any federal waivers or approvals necessary to execute the provisions under the bill. The bill additionally appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund to the department to implement the provisions thereof.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

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

The OLS concludes that the DHS will potentially realize higher administrative costs in order to establish the SNAP training program for employees of County Boards of Social Services, annually review and update the program's curriculum, as needed, and publish certain county-level SNAP data on the department's website. Since the bill appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund to implement the provisions thereof, the OLS assumes that this amount would be the minimum cost to the State under the bill.

The OLS notes that the federal ARPA provides \$1.135 billion over a three-year period to assist the states with SNAP administrative costs, in order to partially alleviate increased public demand for benefits resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. This additional federal funding does not require that states provide matching funds for eligible SNAP administrative expenditures. Between federal fiscal years 2021 and 2023, New Jersey is scheduled to receive \$21 million under ARPA for SNAP administrative costs; of this amount, \$8.2 million is allocated for each of federal fiscal years 2022 and 2023. By comparison, total SNAP administrative costs incurred by the State in FY 2019 totaled \$326.8 million.

Guidance from the USDA, which administers SNAP at the federal level, directs states to utilize ARPA funds for the following purposes, which potentially align with the provisions of this bill: explore opportunities to improve service delivery and access for vulnerable populations; invest in State employees and infrastructure to provide the necessary technology and training in order to modernize customer service delivery; and improve reporting systems to ensure timely and reliable information is provided to the Food and Nutrition Service, Congress, and stakeholders on program outcomes and activities. To the extent that the department utilizes ARPA funding to meet the requirements under this bill, State costs incurred will decrease, and may potentially be eliminated.

Since the federal government shares all administrative expenses with the State, the requirements under this bill may increase State revenues by an indeterminate amount. Any increase in SNAP benefits resulting from the requirements under the bill would not have any fiscal impact on the State, as SNAP benefits are paid directly from federal funds.

*Section: Human Services*

*Analyst: Anne Hunt Cappabianca  
Associate Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Thomas Koenig  
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

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

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



SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR  
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[Second Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2363**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 6, 2022

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2363 (2R).

This bill would require the Department of Human Services (department), to the maximum extent permissible under federal law, to establish a training program for county boards of social services that assist individuals with the SNAP enrollment and recertification process. The purpose of the training will be to educate employees on current federal laws, regulations, and standards concerning SNAP, and standard best practices to comply with federal SNAP requirements. The department will review the training program and curriculum each year and may modify the training program from time to time, as necessary, to incorporate any changes to the federal laws, regulations, and standards concerning SNAP. Participation in the training program will be mandatory for all employees of a county board of social services who assist individuals with the SNAP enrollment and recertification process. Each county board of social services will be responsible for ensuring that all required employees complete the training program, at least once in each calendar year.

This bill requires the department to publish county-level case tracking data on SNAP on its Internet website that includes, but is not limited to: application approval rates, reasons for application denial, and average application approval time.

The bill requires the Commissioner of Human Services to apply to the Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement the provisions of the bill. The commissioner may adopt rules and regulations as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of this act, which rules and regulations will be effective immediately upon filing with the Office of Administrative Law for a period not to exceed 18 months, and may, thereafter, be amended, adopted, or readopted in accordance with the provisions of the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).

This bill appropriates from the State's General Fund the sum of \$250,000 to the Department of Human Services to effectuate the provisions of the bill.

As reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 2363 (2R) is identical to Senate Bill No. 2033, which was also reported by the committee on this date, with amendments.

# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[Second Reprint]

## **ASSEMBLY, No. 2363**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 27, 2022

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 2363 (2R).

As amended by the committee, this bill would require the Department of Human Services (DHS), to the maximum extent permissible under federal law, to establish a training program for county boards of social services that assist individuals with the SNAP enrollment and recertification process. The purpose of the training will be to educate employees, including supervisory and managerial employees and designated county training staff, on current federal laws, regulations, and standards concerning SNAP, and standard best practices to comply with federal SNAP requirements, with the goal of ensuring employees of county boards of social services are at all times in compliance with federal laws, regulations, standards, and best practices as they pertain to SNAP. The department will review the training program and curriculum each year and may modify the training program from time to time, as necessary, to incorporate any changes to the federal laws, regulations, and standards concerning SNAP.

Participation in the training program will be mandatory for all employees of a county board of social services who assist individuals with the SNAP enrollment and recertification process, as well as for all supervisory or management employees of the county board of social services who interview, process, or review SNAP cases and designated training staff of the county board of social services. Each county board of social services will be responsible for ensuring that: all required employees complete the training program at least twice in each calendar year; all newly-hired employees of the county board of social services who will assist individuals with SNAP enrollment and recertification processes, who will interview, process, or review SNAP cases in a managerial or supervisory role, or who will serve as designated training staff for the county board of social services complete the training within one month of hire; and all employees who assist individuals with SNAP enrollment and recertification processes,

who interview, process, or review SNAP cases in a managerial or supervisory role, or who serve as designated training staff members, complete the training as a condition of any professional promotion within the county board of social services.

As amended, the bill requires the department to publish county-level case tracking data on SNAP on its Internet website that includes, but is not limited to: application approval rates, reasons for application denial, average application approval times, and the average time between when a case closes and when it is subsequently reopened.

As amended, the bill revises a current law that requires the Commissioner of Human Services to allow SNAP applications to be submitted by telephone, to additionally permit applications to be submitted using electronic devices, including computers, mobile phones, tablets, and other Internet-connected devices, as well as by kiosk. As amended, the bill further directs the commissioner to allow SNAP interviews to be conducted by telephone or using an electronic device or kiosk. The commissioner is directed to establish requirements to ensure the security and privacy of applications submitted, and interviews conducted, by telephone or using an electronic device or kiosk.

County welfare agencies and county boards of social services will be required to designate an employee of the agency or board as the agency's or board's county social service liaison. County social service liaisons will be responsible for consulting with institutions of higher education and the higher education community to assist with any technical assistance questions from SNAP applicants and from the county welfare agency or county board of social services arising from the use of telephones, electronic devices, and kiosks in connection with SNAP applications and SNAP interviews.

The bill requires the commissioner to apply to the Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement the provisions of the bill. The commissioner may adopt rules and regulations as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of this act, which rules and regulations will be effective immediately upon filing with the Office of Administrative Law for a period not to exceed 18 months, and may, thereafter, be amended, adopted, or readopted in accordance with the provisions of the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).

As amended, the bill directs the commissioner to annually request funding in an amount as is necessary and appropriate to support additional funding for county call centers to address technical assistance questions from SNAP applicants, county welfare agencies, and county boards of social services arising from the use of telephones, electronic devices, and kiosks in connection with SNAP applications and SNAP interviews.

The bill appropriates from the State's General Fund the sum of \$250,000 to the Department of Human Services to effectuate the provisions of the bill.

As reported by the committee with amendments, Assembly Bill No. 2363 (2R) is identical to Senate Bill No. 2033 (1R), which was also reported by the committee on this date, with amendments.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments provide that the training required under the bill will be required of supervisory or management employees of county boards of social services who interview, process, or review SNAP cases, as well as designated training staff of county boards of social services.

The committee amendments revise the training requirements to require that the training be completed at least twice per year, as well as upon hiring and as a condition of accepting a professional promotion within a county board of social services.

The committee amendments revise certain data reporting requirements for the DHS to require the DHS to publish data concerning the average time between when a SNAP case is closed and when it is subsequently reopened.

The committee amendments revise an existing law that requires the Commissioner of Human Services to allow SNAP applications to be submitted by telephone to additionally require the commissioner to allow applications to be submitted using electronic devices and kiosks, as well as to allow SNAP interviews to be conducted using a telephone, electronic device, or kiosk. The amendments require the DHS to ensure the security and privacy of information transmitted using a telephone, electronic device, or kiosk.

The committee amendments require county welfare agencies and county boards of social services to designate a county social service liaison, who will be responsible for working with institutions of higher education concerning technical assistance issues involving SNAP applications and interviews involving telephones, electronic devices, and kiosks.

The committee amendments require the commissioner to annually request funding in an amount necessary and appropriate to support additional funding for county call centers to address technical assistance questions involving SNAP applications and interviews.

The committee amendments revise the title and synopsis of the bill to reflect the changes made by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fiscal information for this bill is currently unavailable.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Third Reprint]

## ASSEMBLY, No. 2363

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JULY 5, 2022

#### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Concerns SNAP services provided at county boards of social services and county welfare agencies; appropriates \$250,000.
- Type of Impact:** State expenditure increase; potential increase in State revenues; potential increase in county costs.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Human Services, county boards of social services, county welfare agencies.

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Annual</u></b>
<b>State Cost Increase</b>	Indeterminate, minimum of \$250,000
<b>Potential State Revenue Increase</b>	Indeterminate
<b>Potential County Cost Increase</b>	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that the Department of Human Services (DHS) will potentially realize higher administrative costs in order to establish the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) training program for employees of county boards of social services; annually review and update the training program and curriculum, as needed; publish certain county-level SNAP data on the department's website; establish an electronic information processing system by which SNAP applicants may apply for benefits by an internet-connected device, such as a laptop computer, or kiosk, in addition to by phone, and by which employees of county welfare agencies or county boards of social services may securely conduct SNAP interviews by phone, electronic device, or kiosk; and for county welfare agencies and county boards of social services to consult with institutions of higher education to assist with technical assistance questions from SNAP applicants and from any county welfare agencies or county boards of social services arising from the new technology platforms that may be used to apply for SNAP benefits under the bill.
- Although the bill appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund for the department to implement these requirements, the State may potentially use federal funding under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to partially, if not completely, offset any SNAP

administrative costs that exceed the amount of the appropriation; therefore, the OLS cannot determine the net fiscal impact to the State.

- State revenues will likely increase under the bill, since the federal government provides matching funds for qualifying State administrative expenditures under SNAP. Any revenue increase from the receipt of federal matching funds will depend upon whether the programs established under the bill receive federal waiver approval, and the extent to which the State allocates federal ARPA funding to help offset higher SNAP administrative costs stemming from this bill.
- County boards of social services may also realize increased costs, pursuant to a provision in the bill that requires each county board of social services to ensure that all employees, including newly hired staff, who assist individuals with the SNAP enrollment and recertification processes, certain supervisory and managerial employees, and designated county training staff complete the SNAP training program at least twice each year.

### **BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill would require the DHS, to the maximum extent permissible under federal law, to establish a training program for each employee of a county board of social services who assists individuals with the SNAP enrollment and recertification process. The purpose of the training will be to educate employees, including certain supervisory and managerial employees and designated county training staff, on current federal laws, regulations, and standards concerning SNAP, and best practices to comply with federal SNAP requirements. The department is required to periodically review and modify the training program, as needed, to incorporate any changes to federal SNAP laws, regulations, and standards. Each County Board of Social Services is responsible for ensuring that all required employees complete the training program at least twice in each calendar year.

The bill additionally requires the department to publish county-level case tracking data for SNAP on its website, including: application approval rates, reasons for application denial, and average application approval time.

The bill also amends current law, which requires the DHS to allow SNAP applications to be submitted by telephone, to additionally permit applications submitted using internet-connected electronic devices, such as a laptop computer or mobile phone, as well as by kiosk. The Commissioner of Human Services, furthermore, is directed to allow SNAP interviews to be securely conducted by telephone, or by use of an electronic device or kiosk. Under the bill, each county welfare agency and county board of social services is to designate one individual who will be responsible for consulting with institutions of higher education to assist with questions concerning technical assistance from SNAP applicants, the county welfare agencies, or the county boards of social services.

The bill directs the Commissioner of Human Services to apply to the Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for any federal waivers or approvals necessary to execute the provisions under the bill. The Commissioner, additionally, is to annually request funding in an amount as is necessary to support county call centers to address technical assistance questions from SNAP applicants, county welfare agencies, and county boards of social services that may arise from the use of electronic devices, phones, or kiosks in connection

with SNAP applications and interviews. The bill additionally appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund to the department to implement the provisions thereof.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

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

The OLS concludes that the DHS will realize significantly higher administrative costs in order to establish the SNAP training program for certain employees of county boards of social services, annually review and update the program's curriculum, publish certain county-level SNAP data on the department's website; establish a system by which SNAP applications can be submitted and SNAP interviews can be conducted by phone, internet-connected electronic device, or kiosk; and for county welfare agencies and county boards of social services to designate one employee to consult with institutions of higher questions concerning technical assistance questions that arise from the use of technology to submit SNAP applications and conduct SNAP interviews. Although the bill appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund to implement the provisions thereof, the OLS anticipates that actual State costs to implement the requirements under the bill would be significantly higher than this amount.

The OLS notes that the federal ARPA provides \$1.135 billion over a three-year period to assist the states with SNAP administrative costs, in order to partially alleviate increased public demand for benefits resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. This additional federal funding does not require that states provide matching funds for eligible SNAP administrative expenditures. Between federal fiscal years 2021 and 2023, New Jersey is scheduled to receive \$21 million under ARPA for SNAP administrative costs; of this amount, \$8.2 million is allocated for each of federal fiscal years 2022 and 2023. By comparison, total SNAP administrative costs incurred by the State in FY 2019 totaled \$326.8 million.

Guidance from the USDA, which administers SNAP at the federal level, directs states to utilize ARPA funds for the following purposes, which potentially align with the provisions of this bill: explore opportunities to improve service delivery and access for vulnerable populations; invest in State employees and infrastructure to provide the necessary technology and training in order to modernize customer service delivery; and improve reporting systems to ensure timely and reliable information is provided to the Food and Nutrition Service, Congress, and stakeholders on program outcomes and activities. To the extent that the department utilizes ARPA funding to meet the requirements under this bill, State costs incurred will decrease, and may potentially be eliminated.

Since the federal government shares all administrative expenses with the State, the requirements under this bill may increase State revenues by an indeterminate amount. Any increase in SNAP benefits resulting from the requirements under the bill would not have any fiscal impact on the State, as SNAP benefits are paid directly from federal funds.



*Section: Human Services*

*Analyst: Anne Cappabianca  
Associate Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Thomas Koenig  
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

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

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

# SENATE, No. 2033

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 3, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator NELLIE POU**

**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Cruz-Perez and Ruiz**

**SYNOPSIS**

Concerns SNAP services provided at county boards of social services.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/6/2022)**

1 AN ACT concerning county boards of social services and  
2 supplementing Title 44 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. As used in this act:

8 “Commissioner” means Commissioner of Human Services.

9 “Department” means Department of Human Services.

10 “SNAP” means the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition  
11 Assistance Program, established pursuant to the federal “Food and  
12 Nutrition Act of 2008,” Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.).

13

14 2. a. The Department of Human Services, to the maximum  
15 extent permissible under federal law, shall establish a training  
16 program for each employee of a county board of social services  
17 who assists individuals with SNAP enrollment and recertification  
18 processes. The purpose of the training shall be to educate  
19 employees on current federal laws, regulations, and standards  
20 concerning SNAP, and standard best practices to comply with  
21 federal SNAP requirements. The department shall review the  
22 training program and curriculum at least once every six months and  
23 shall require modification of the training program from time to  
24 time, as need may require, to incorporate any changes to the federal  
25 laws, regulations, and standards concerning SNAP.

26 b. Participation in the training program established pursuant to  
27 this section shall be mandatory for all employees of a county board  
28 of social services who assist individuals with SNAP enrollment and  
29 recertification processes. The chief administrative office of each  
30 county board of social services shall be responsible for ensuring  
31 that all required employees complete the training program, at least  
32 once in each calendar year.

33

34 3. The Department of Human Services shall publish county-  
35 level case tracking data for SNAP on its Internet website that  
36 includes, but is not limited to: application approval rates, reasons  
37 for application denial, and average application approval time.

38

39 4. a. The Department of Human Services, to the maximum  
40 extent permissible under federal law, shall establish a one-year pilot  
41 program that conduct focused outreach efforts about SNAP benefits  
42 and provides application assistance to certain populations. The  
43 purpose of this pilot program shall be to increase enrollment, among  
44 certain underserved populations, of eligible participants in SNAP,  
45 which underserved populations include, but are not limited to,  
46 college students, immigrants, and older adults.

47 b. The application assistance for older adults; commissioner  
48 shall select one county board of social services in each of the

**S2033 POU**

1 northern, central, and southern regions of the State to participate in  
2 the pilot program.

3 c. The pilot program may include, but shall not be limited to,  
4 the following elements:

5 (1) the creation and dissemination of videos to educate older  
6 adults about SNAP and the application process;

7 (2) grassroots outreach about SNAP through senior centers,  
8 hospitals, doctor's offices, houses of worship, and other place  
9 where older adults may congregate;

10 (3) the provision of telephone

11 (4) the development of a social media campaign for college  
12 students that raises awareness about SNAP;

13 (5) the formation of partnerships with institutions of higher  
14 education and the higher education community, such as school  
15 administrators, professors, counselors, student health offices,  
16 campus food pantries, and financial aid officers, to raise awareness  
17 about SNAP among students and provide students with the  
18 necessary information to apply for SNAP;

19 (6) the establishment of campus representatives at institutions of  
20 higher learning who can educate students about SNAP and refer  
21 students to a local county board of social services;

22 (7) the promotion of SNAP outreach and application materials  
23 in different languages through organizations and faith-based  
24 communities that serve immigrants; and

25 (8) outreach through social and traditional media, especially  
26 non-English media, to reach immigrant populations.

27 d. At the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner  
28 shall submit a report to the Governor, and to the Legislature  
29 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), on the  
30 implementation, outcomes, and effectiveness of the pilot program.  
31 The report shall include the commissioner's recommendation on the  
32 advisability of the program's continuation and expansion to  
33 additional county boards of social services in the State.

34

35 5. The Commissioner of Human Services shall:

36 (a) apply to the Food and Nutrition Service within the United  
37 States Department of Agriculture for any necessary waivers or  
38 approvals to implement the provisions of this act; and

39 (b) adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative  
40 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.140 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be  
41 necessary to effectuate the provisions of this act.

42

43 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

44

45 **STATEMENT**

46

47 This bill would require the Department of Human Services  
48 (department), to the maximum extent permissible under federal law,

## S2033 POU

4

1 to establish a training program for each employee of a county board  
2 of social services who assists individuals with the SNAP enrollment  
3 and recertification process. The purpose of the training will be to  
4 educate employees on current federal laws, regulations, and  
5 standards concerning SNAP, and standard best practices to comply  
6 with federal SNAP requirements. The department will review the  
7 training program and curriculum at least once every six months and  
8 will modify the training program from time to time, as necessary, to  
9 incorporate any changes to the federal laws, regulations, and  
10 standards concerning SNAP. Participation in the training program  
11 will be mandatory for all employees of a county board of social  
12 services who assist individuals with the SNAP enrollment and  
13 recertification process. The chief administrative office of each  
14 county board of social services will be responsible for ensuring that  
15 all required employees complete the training program, at least once  
16 in each calendar year.

17 This bill also requires the department to publish county-level  
18 case tracking data on SNAP on its Internet website that includes,  
19 but is not limited to: application approval rates, reasons for  
20 application denial, and average application approval time.

21 Finally, the bill requires the department, to the maximum extent  
22 permissible under federal law, to establish a one-year pilot program  
23 that conducts focused outreach efforts about eligibility for SNAP  
24 benefits and provides application assistance to certain populations.  
25 The purpose of this program is to increase enrollment, among  
26 certain underserved populations, of eligible participants in SNAP.  
27 These underserved populations include, but are not limited to,  
28 college students, immigrants, and older adults. The Commissioner  
29 of Human Services (commissioner) will select one county board of  
30 social services in each of the northern, central, and southern regions  
31 of the State to participate in the pilot program. The pilot program  
32 may include, but shall not be limited to, the following elements:

33 (1) the creation and dissemination of videos to educate older  
34 adults about SNAP and the application process;

35 (2) grassroots outreach about SNAP through senior centers,  
36 hospitals, doctor's offices, houses of worship, and other place  
37 where older adults may congregate;

38 (3) the provision of telephone application assistance for older  
39 adults;

40 (4) the development of a social media campaign for college  
41 students that raises awareness about SNAP;

42 (5) the formation of partnerships with institutions of higher  
43 education and the higher education community, such as school  
44 administrators, professors, counselors, student health offices,  
45 campus food pantries, and financial aid officers, to raise awareness  
46 about SNAP among students and provide students with the  
47 necessary information to apply for SNAP;

**S2033 POU**

1       (6) the establishment of campus representatives at institutions of  
2 higher learning who can educate students about SNAP and refer  
3 students to a local county board of social services;

4       (7) the promotion of SNAP outreach and application materials  
5 in different languages through organizations and faith-based  
6 communities that serve immigrants; and

7       (8) outreach through social and traditional media, especially  
8 non-English media, to reach immigrant populations.

9       At the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner will be  
10 required to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature on the  
11 implementation, outcomes, and effectiveness of the pilot program.  
12 The report will include the commissioner's recommendation on the  
13 advisability of the program's continuation and expansion to  
14 additional county boards of social services in the State. The  
15 commissioner will also be required to apply to the Food and  
16 Nutrition Service within the United States Department of  
17 Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement  
18 the provisions of this act.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR  
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
**SENATE, No. 2033**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 6, 2022

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 2033.

As amended by the committee, this bill would require the Department of Human Services (department), to the maximum extent permissible under federal law, to establish a training program for county boards of social services that assist individuals with the SNAP enrollment and recertification process. The purpose of the training will be to educate employees on current federal laws, regulations, and standards concerning SNAP, and standard best practices to comply with federal SNAP requirements. The department will review the training program and curriculum each year and may modify the training program from time to time, as necessary, to incorporate any changes to the federal laws, regulations, and standards concerning SNAP. Participation in the training program will be mandatory for all employees of a county board of social services who assist individuals with the SNAP enrollment and recertification process. Each county board of social services will be responsible for ensuring that all required employees complete the training program, at least once in each calendar year.

This bill requires the department to publish county-level case tracking data on SNAP on its Internet website that includes, but is not limited to: application approval rates, reasons for application denial, and average application approval time.

As amended, the bill requires the Commissioner of Human Services to apply to the Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement the provisions of the bill. The commissioner may adopt rules and regulations as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of this act, which rules and regulations will be effective immediately upon filing with the Office of Administrative Law for a period not to exceed 18 months, and may, thereafter, be amended, adopted, or readopted in accordance with the provisions of the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).

As amended, this bill appropriates from the State's General Fund the sum of \$250,000 to the Department of Human Services to effectuate the provisions of the bill.

As reported by the committee with amendments, Senate Bill No. 2033 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2363 (2R), which was also reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments clarify that the training program established by the bill will be for county boards of social services that assist individuals with SNAP enrollment and recertification processes.

The committee amendments provide that that the Department of Human Services (department) will review the training program and curriculum each year, instead of once every six months as originally provided in the bill, and the amendments clarify the department's authority to modify the training program as necessary.

The committee amendments remove provisions of the bill that would have required the department to establish a one-year pilot program to conduct focused outreach efforts about SNAP benefits and to provide application assistance to certain populations.

The committee amendments clarify that the Commissioner of Human Services may adopt rules and regulations as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of the bill, which rules and regulations will be effective immediately upon filing with the Office of Administrative Law for a period not to exceed 18 months, and may, thereafter, be amended, adopted or readopted in accordance with the provisions of the "Administrative Procedure Act."

The committee amendments appropriate from the State's General Fund the sum of \$250,000 to the department to effectuate the provisions of the bill.

The committee amendments make various technical changes to the bill involving formatting and update the bill's title and synopsis to reflect the changes made by amendment.



# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

## SENATE, No. 2033 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 23, 2022

### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Concerns SNAP services provided at county boards of social services; appropriates \$250,000.
- Type of Impact:** State expenditure increase; potential increase in State revenues; potential increase in county costs.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Human Services, county boards of social services.

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Annual</u></b>
<b>State Cost Increase</b>	Indeterminate, minimum of \$250,000
<b>Potential State Revenue Increase</b>	Indeterminate
<b>Potential County Cost Increase</b>	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that the Department of Human Services (DHS) will potentially realize higher administrative costs in order to establish the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) training program for employees of County Boards of Social Services, annually review and update the training program and curriculum, as needed, and publish certain county-level SNAP data on the department's website. Although the bill appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund for the department to implement these requirements, the State may potentially use federal funding under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to partially, if not completely, offset any SNAP administrative costs that exceed the amount of the appropriation; therefore, the OLS cannot determine the net fiscal impact to the State.
- State revenues will likely increase under the bill, since the federal government provides matching funds for qualifying State administrative expenditures under SNAP. Any revenue increase from the receipt of federal matching funds will depend upon whether the programs established under the bill receive federal waiver approval, and the extent to which the State allocates federal ARPA funding to help offset higher SNAP administrative costs stemming from this bill.

- County Boards of Social Services may also realize increased costs, pursuant to a provision in the bill that requires each County Board of Social Services to ensure that all employees who assist individuals with the SNAP enrollment and recertification processes complete the SNAP training program newly established under the bill.

## **BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill would require the DHS, to the maximum extent permissible under federal law, to establish a training program for each employee of a County Board of Social Services who assists individuals with the SNAP enrollment and recertification process. The purpose of the training will be to educate employees on current federal laws, regulations, and standards concerning SNAP, and best practices to comply with federal SNAP requirements. The department is required to periodically review and modify the training program, as needed, to incorporate any changes to federal SNAP laws, regulations, and standards. Each County Board of Social Services is responsible for ensuring that all required employees complete the training program at least once in each calendar year.

The bill additionally requires the department to publish county-level case tracking data for SNAP on its website, including: application approval rates, reasons for application denial, and average application approval time.

The bill directs the Commissioner of Human Services to apply to the Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for any federal waivers or approvals necessary to execute the provisions under the bill. The bill additionally appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund to the department to implement the provisions thereof.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

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

The OLS concludes that the DHS will potentially realize higher administrative costs in order to establish the SNAP training program for employees of County Boards of Social Services, annually review and update the program's curriculum, as needed, and publish certain county-level SNAP data on the department's website. Since the bill appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund to implement the provisions thereof, the OLS assumes that this amount would be the minimum cost to the State under the bill.

The OLS notes that the federal ARPA provides \$1.135 billion over a three-year period to assist the states with SNAP administrative costs, in order to partially alleviate increased public demand for benefits resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. This additional federal funding does not require that states provide matching funds for eligible SNAP administrative expenditures. Between federal fiscal years 2021 and 2023, New Jersey is scheduled to receive \$21 million under ARPA for SNAP administrative costs; of this amount, \$8.2 million is allocated for each of federal fiscal years 2022 and 2023. By comparison, total SNAP administrative costs incurred by the State in FY 2019 totaled \$326.8 million.

Guidance from the USDA, which administers SNAP at the federal level, directs states to utilize ARPA funds for the following purposes, which potentially align with the provisions of this bill: explore opportunities to improve service delivery and access for vulnerable populations; invest in State employees and infrastructure to provide the necessary technology and training in order to modernize customer service delivery; and improve reporting systems to ensure timely and reliable information is provided to the Food and Nutrition Service, Congress, and stakeholders on program outcomes and activities. To the extent that the department utilizes ARPA funding to meet the requirements under this bill, State costs incurred will decrease, and may potentially be eliminated.

Since the federal government shares all administrative expenses with the State, the requirements under this bill may increase State revenues by an indeterminate amount. Any increase in SNAP benefits resulting from the requirements under the bill would not have any fiscal impact on the State, as SNAP benefits are paid directly from federal funds.

*Section: Human Services*

*Analyst: Anne Hunt Cappabianca  
Associate Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Thomas Koenig  
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

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

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

# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

## **SENATE, No. 2033**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 27, 2022

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 2033 (1R).

As amended by the committee, this bill would require the Department of Human Services (DHS), to the maximum extent permissible under federal law, to establish a training program for county boards of social services that assist individuals with the SNAP enrollment and recertification process. The purpose of the training will be to educate employees, including supervisory and managerial employees and designated county training staff, on current federal laws, regulations, and standards concerning SNAP, and standard best practices to comply with federal SNAP requirements, with the goal of ensuring employees of county boards of social services are at all times in compliance with federal laws, regulations, standards, and best practices as they pertain to SNAP. The department will review the training program and curriculum each year and may modify the training program from time to time, as necessary, to incorporate any changes to the federal laws, regulations, and standards concerning SNAP.

Participation in the training program will be mandatory for all employees of a county board of social services who assist individuals with the SNAP enrollment and recertification process, as well as for all supervisory or management employees of the county board of social services who interview, process, or review SNAP cases and designated training staff of the county board of social services. Each county board of social services will be responsible for ensuring that: all required employees complete the training program at least twice in each calendar year; all newly-hired employees of the county board of social services who will assist individuals with SNAP enrollment and recertification processes, who will interview, process, or review SNAP cases in a managerial or supervisory role, or who will serve as designated training staff for the county board of social services complete the training within one month of hire; and all employees who assist individuals with SNAP enrollment and recertification processes, who interview, process, or review SNAP cases in a managerial or

supervisory role, or who serve as designated training staff members, complete the training as a condition of any professional promotion within the county board of social services.

As amended, the bill requires the department to publish county-level case tracking data on SNAP on its Internet website that includes, but is not limited to: application approval rates, reasons for application denial, average application approval times, and the average time between when a case closes and when it is subsequently reopened.

As amended, the bill revises a current law that requires the Commissioner of Human Services to allow SNAP applications to be submitted by telephone, to additionally permit applications to be submitted using electronic devices, including computers, mobile phones, tablets, and other Internet-connected devices, as well as by kiosk. As amended, the bill further directs the commissioner to allow SNAP interviews to be conducted by telephone or using an electronic device or kiosk. The commissioner is directed to establish requirements to ensure the security and privacy of applications submitted, and interviews conducted, by telephone or using an electronic device or kiosk.

County welfare agencies and county boards of social services will be required to designate an employee of the agency or board as the agency's or board's county social service liaison. County social service liaisons will be responsible for consulting with institutions of higher education and the higher education community to assist with any technical assistance questions from SNAP applicants and from the county welfare agency or county board of social services arising from the use of telephones, electronic devices, and kiosks in connection with SNAP applications and SNAP interviews.

The bill requires the commissioner to apply to the Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement the provisions of the bill. The commissioner may adopt rules and regulations as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of this act, which rules and regulations will be effective immediately upon filing with the Office of Administrative Law for a period not to exceed 18 months, and may, thereafter, be amended, adopted, or readopted in accordance with the provisions of the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).

As amended, the bill directs the commissioner to annually request funding in an amount as is necessary and appropriate to support additional funding for county call centers to address technical assistance questions from SNAP applicants, county welfare agencies, and county boards of social services arising from the use of telephones, electronic devices, and kiosks in connection with SNAP applications and SNAP interviews.

The bill appropriates from the State's General Fund the sum of \$250,000 to the Department of Human Services to effectuate the provisions of the bill.

As reported by the committee with amendments, Senate Bill No. 2033 (1R) is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2363 (2R), which was also reported by the committee on this date, with amendments.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments provide that the training required under the bill will be required of supervisory or management employees of county boards of social services who interview, process, or review SNAP cases, as well as designated training staff of county boards of social services.

The committee amendments revise the training requirements to require that the training be completed at least twice per year, as well as upon hiring and as a condition of accepting a professional promotion within a county board of social services.

The committee amendments revise certain data reporting requirements for the DHS to require the DHS to publish data concerning the average time between when a SNAP case is closed and when it is subsequently reopened.

The committee amendments revise an existing law that requires the Commissioner of Human Services to allow SNAP applications to be submitted by telephone to additionally require the commissioner to allow applications to be submitted using electronic devices and kiosks, as well as to allow SNAP interviews to be conducted using a telephone, electronic device, or kiosk. The amendments require the DHS to ensure the security and privacy of information transmitted using a telephone, electronic device, or kiosk.

The committee amendments require county welfare agencies and county boards of social services to designate a county social service liaison, who will be responsible for working with institutions of higher education concerning technical assistance issues involving SNAP applications and interviews involving telephones, electronic devices, and kiosks.

The committee amendments require the commissioner to annually request funding in an amount necessary and appropriate to support additional funding for county call centers to address technical assistance questions involving SNAP applications and interviews.

The committee amendments revise the title and synopsis of the bill to reflect the changes made by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fiscal information for this bill is currently unavailable.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Second Reprint]

## SENATE, No. 2033

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JULY 5, 2022

#### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Concerns SNAP services provided at county boards of social services and county welfare agencies; appropriates \$250,000.
- Type of Impact:** State expenditure increase; potential increase in State revenues; potential increase in county costs.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Human Services, county boards of social services, county welfare agencies.

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Annual</u></b>
<b>State Cost Increase</b>	Indeterminate, minimum of \$250,000
<b>Potential State Revenue Increase</b>	Indeterminate
<b>Potential County Cost Increase</b>	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that the Department of Human Services (DHS) will potentially realize higher administrative costs in order to establish the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) training program for employees of county boards of social services; annually review and update the training program and curriculum, as needed; publish certain county-level SNAP data on the department's website; establish an electronic information processing system by which SNAP applicants may apply for benefits by an internet-connected device, such as a laptop computer, or kiosk, in addition to by phone, and by which employees of county welfare agencies or county boards of social services may securely conduct SNAP interviews by phone, electronic device, or kiosk; and for county welfare agencies and county boards of social services to consult with institutions of higher education to assist with technical assistance questions from SNAP applicants and from any county welfare agencies or county boards of social services arising from the new technology platforms that may be used to apply for SNAP benefits under the bill.
- Although the bill appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund for the department to implement these requirements, the State may potentially use federal funding under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to partially, if not completely, offset any SNAP

administrative costs that exceed the amount of the appropriation; therefore, the OLS cannot determine the net fiscal impact to the State.

- State revenues will likely increase under the bill, since the federal government provides matching funds for qualifying State administrative expenditures under SNAP. Any revenue increase from the receipt of federal matching funds will depend upon whether the programs established under the bill receive federal waiver approval, and the extent to which the State allocates federal ARPA funding to help offset higher SNAP administrative costs stemming from this bill.
- County boards of social services may also realize increased costs, pursuant to a provision in the bill that requires each county board of social services to ensure that all employees, including newly hired staff, who assist individuals with the SNAP enrollment and recertification processes, certain supervisory and managerial employees, and designated county training staff complete the SNAP training program at least twice each year.

## **BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill would require the DHS, to the maximum extent permissible under federal law, to establish a training program for each employee of a county board of social services who assists individuals with the SNAP enrollment and recertification process. The purpose of the training will be to educate employees, including certain supervisory and managerial employees and designated county training staff, on current federal laws, regulations, and standards concerning SNAP, and best practices to comply with federal SNAP requirements. The department is required to periodically review and modify the training program, as needed, to incorporate any changes to federal SNAP laws, regulations, and standards. Each county board of social services is responsible for ensuring that all required employees complete the training program at least twice in each calendar year.

The bill additionally requires the department to publish county-level case tracking data for SNAP on its website, including: application approval rates, reasons for application denial, and average application approval time.

The bill also amends current law, which requires the DHS to allow SNAP applications to be submitted by telephone, to additionally permit applications submitted using internet-connected electronic devices, such as a laptop computer or mobile phone, as well as by kiosk. The Commissioner of Human Services, furthermore, is directed to allow SNAP interviews to be securely conducted by telephone, or by use of an electronic device or kiosk. Under the bill, each county welfare agency and county board of social services is to designate one individual who will be responsible for consulting with institutions of higher education to assist with questions concerning technical assistance from SNAP applicants, the county welfare agencies, or the county boards of social services.

The bill directs the commissioner to apply to the Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for any federal waivers or approvals necessary to execute the provisions under the bill. The commissioner, additionally, is to annually request funding in an amount as is necessary to support county call centers to address technical assistance questions from SNAP applicants, county welfare agencies, and county boards of social services that may arise from the use of electronic devices, phones, or kiosks in connection with SNAP applications and interviews. The bill additionally appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund to the department to implement the provisions thereof.



## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### *EXECUTIVE BRANCH*

None received.

### *OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES*

The OLS concludes that the DHS will realize significantly higher administrative costs in order to establish the SNAP training program for certain employees of county boards of social services, annually review and update the program's curriculum, publish certain county-level SNAP data on the department's website; establish a system by which SNAP applications can be submitted and SNAP interviews can be conducted by phone, internet-connected electronic device, or kiosk; and for county welfare agencies and county boards of social services to designate one employee to consult with institutions of higher questions concerning technical assistance questions that arise from the use of technology to submit SNAP applications and conduct SNAP interviews. Although the bill appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund to implement the provisions thereof, the OLS anticipates that actual State costs to implement the requirements under the bill would be significantly higher than this amount.

The OLS notes that the federal ARPA provides \$1.135 billion over a three-year period to assist the states with SNAP administrative costs, in order to partially alleviate increased public demand for benefits resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. This additional federal funding does not require that states provide matching funds for eligible SNAP administrative expenditures. Between federal fiscal years 2021 and 2023, New Jersey is scheduled to receive \$21 million under ARPA for SNAP administrative costs; of this amount, \$8.2 million is allocated for each of federal fiscal years 2022 and 2023. By comparison, total SNAP administrative costs incurred by the State in FY 2019 totaled \$326.8 million.

Guidance from the USDA, which administers SNAP at the federal level, directs states to utilize ARPA funds for the following purposes, which potentially align with the provisions of this bill: explore opportunities to improve service delivery and access for vulnerable populations; invest in State employees and infrastructure to provide the necessary technology and training in order to modernize customer service delivery; and improve reporting systems to ensure timely and reliable information is provided to the Food and Nutrition Service, Congress, and stakeholders on program outcomes and activities. To the extent that the department utilizes ARPA funding to meet the requirements under this bill, State costs incurred will decrease, and may potentially be eliminated.

Since the federal government shares all administrative expenses with the State, the requirements under this bill may increase State revenues by an indeterminate amount. Any increase in SNAP benefits resulting from the requirements under the bill would not have any fiscal impact on the State, as SNAP benefits are paid directly from federal funds.

*Section:* Human Services

*Analyst:* Anne Cappabianca  
Associate Fiscal Analyst

*Approved:* Thomas Koenig  
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

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

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

# Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

06/30/2022

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

**2944/A-4162 (Sarlo, Ruiz/Freiman, Mosquera, Jaffer, Moriarty, Tully, Swain)** - Credits \$5.2 billion to “New Jersey Debt Defeasance and Prevention Fund”; appropriates \$2.9 billion to NJ Schools Development Authority, NJ DOT, and NJT; and establishes process for authorizing future appropriations for debt defeasance and capital projects

**S-1929/A-3668 (Gopal, Pennacchio/McKeon, Tully, Conaway)** - Makes FY 2022 supplemental appropriation to provide State military impact aid to certain school districts

**A-4403/S-2915 (Pintor Marin, Wimberly/Sarlo, Cunningham)** - Makes FY 2022 supplemental appropriations of \$71,786,000

**ACS for A-1522/S-2914 (Moriarty, Mosquera, Jaffer, Freiman, Lampitt, Greenwald/Madden, Gopal)** - Establishes annual sales tax holiday for certain retail sales of computers, school computer supplies, school supplies, school art supplies, school instructional materials and sport or recreational equipment.

**A-4401/S-2860 (Jaffer, Moriarty, Tully/Gopal, Pou)** - Provides one-year waiver of certain MVC fees imposed for driver’s licenses and non-driver identification cards.

**S-2861/A-4400 (Madden, Pou/Mosquera, Swain, Wimberly)** - Waives fees for marriage and civil union licenses in Fiscal Year 2023; appropriates \$2 million

**S-2523/ACS for A-3852 (Ruiz, Cunningham/Reynolds-Jackson, Freiman, Jaffer, Moriarty, Mosquera, Wimberly)** - Provides child tax credit under gross income tax

**S-2476wGR/A-4179 (Ruiz, Vitale/Coughlin, Jasey, Sumter, Quijano)** - Establishes Thriving By Three Act to award competitive grants for infant and toddler child care programs; appropriates \$28 million

**A-2359/S-2034 (Tucker, Moen, Haider/Cruz-Perez, Pou)** - Provides for streamlining of SNAP application process and establishes SNAP application call center; appropriates \$750,000

**A-2360/S-2035 (Reynolds-Jackson, Mukherji, Speight/Cunningham, Ruiz)** - Eliminates requirement that participation in NJ SNAP Employment and Training Program is mandatory for certain recipients

**A-2361/S-2016 (Jimenez, Sumter, Timberlake/Zwicker, Ruiz)** - Requires DHS to maintain SNAP outreach plan and to conduct additional outreach programs

**A-2362/S-2036 (Freiman, Mosquera, Quijano/Johnson, Ruiz)** - Requires DHS to submit federal waiver request regarding time limits for certain SNAP recipients under certain circumstances

**A-2363/S-2033 (Stanley, Mejia, Lopez/Pou, Ruiz)** - Concerns SNAP services provided at county boards of social services and county welfare agencies; appropriates \$250,000

**A-2364/S-2017 (Spearman, Pintor Marin, Atkins/Greenstein, Ruiz)** - Appropriates \$813,000 to DHS to implement use of electronic benefit transfer cards in Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program

**A-2366/SCS for S-2156 (McKnight, Carter, Verrelli/Lagana, Pou)** - Establishes State SNAP Minimum Benefit Program; appropriates \$18 million to DHS

**A-2008/S-352 (Conaway, Verrelli, Benson/Gopal, Madden)** - Requires health insurance carriers to provide coverage for treatment of mental health conditions and substance use disorders through collaborative care

**S-2872/A-4399 (Scutari, Ruiz/Carter, Reynolds-Jackson, Murphy, Wimberly)** - Establishes Behavioral Healthcare Provider Loan Redemption Program within Higher Education Student Assistance Authority; appropriates \$5 million

**SCS for S-311/ACS for A-2036 (Vitale, Gopal/Benson, Verrelli, Conaway)** - Establishes Statewide behavioral health crisis system of care

**SCS for S-722 and 785/ACS for A-998 (Codey, Singleton/Reynolds-Jackson, Stanley, Jaffer)** - Codifies and expands ARRIVE Together Pilot Program to make certain mental health services available to police responding to certain emergencies; appropriates \$2 million

**S-2909/ACS for A-4374 (Diegnan/Benson, Pintor Marin, McKnight)** - Authorizes DOT to compensate contractors and subcontractors affected by supply chain shortages; appropriates \$10 million

**A-4405/S-2943 (Benson, Wimberly, Moen/Diegnan)** - Concerns New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority; increases Transportation Trust Fund spending limit by \$600 million

**A-674/S-1646 (Verrelli, McKnight, McKeon/Ruiz, Pou)** - Establishes New Jersey Easy Enrollment Health Insurance Program

**A-3733/S-488 (Haider, Stanley, Benson/Scutari, Beach)** - Authorizes student attending institution of higher education to earn credit towards graduation for serving as poll worker

**ACS for A-3990/SCS for S-2593 (Stanley, Tully, Karabinchak/Diegnan, Corrado)** - Provides temporary one-year extension of service life of school buses for 2022-2023 school year; authorizes chief administrator to allow one-year extension in subsequent two school years

**A-4208/S-2791 (Pintor Marin, Quijano, Speight/Ruiz, Cruz-Perez)** - Provides sales and use tax exemption for certain purchases made by all supermarkets and grocery stores located within urban enterprise zones

**A2426/S513 (Wimberly, Reynolds-Jackson, Schaer/Cryan, Turner)** - Establishes rebuttable presumption of pretrial detention for defendants who commit certain firearm offenses under Graves Act

**A-4385/S-2933 (Conaway/Cryan)** - Makes various revisions to law pertaining to electronic medical records and recording patients' demographic information

**S-2807/A-246 (Stack, Sacco, Cunningham/McKnight, Sampson, Chaparro)** - Establishes Liberty State Park Design Task Force

**S-2917/A-4395 (Cruz-Perez, Stack/Pintor Marin, Freiman, Reynolds-Jackson)** - Expands allowance for developers to carry forward unused tax credits under New Jersey Aspire Program

**S-2921/A-4365 (Zwicker, Pou/Coughlin, Verrelli, Spearman)** - Revises various provisions of Food Desert Relief Program

**S-2945/ACS for A-4392 (Scutari/Pintor Marin, Sumter, Quijano, McKnight)** - Concerns economic incentives for certain cannabis businesses

**S-2023/A-4402 (Sarlo, Cunningham/Pintor Marin, Wimberly) - LINE ITEM** - Appropriates \$50,638,729,000 in State funds and \$24,082,639,850 in federal funds for the State budget for fiscal year 2022-2023

#### [Copy of Statement](#)

Governor Murphy signed the following bills today, which were sent to his desk yesterday, conditionally vetoed, and then passed in concurrence with the Governor's recommendations:

**S-2476/A-4179 (Ruiz, Vitale/Coughlin, Jasey, Sumter, Quijano) – CONDITIONAL** - Establishes Thriving By Three Act to award competitive grants for infant and toddler child care programs; appropriates \$28 million

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**A-4403/S-2915 (Pintor Marin, Wimberly/Sarlo, Cunningham) – CONDITIONAL** - Makes FY 2022 supplemental appropriations of \$71,786,000

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