ASSEMBLY, No. 2956

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 24, 2014

Sponsored by:
Assemblywoman GABRIELA M. MOSQUERA
District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)
Assemblyman VINCENT PRIETO
District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)
Assemblyman GARY S. SCHAER
District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)
Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY
District 27 (Essex and Morris)
Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE
District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:
Assemblymen McKeon, Benson and Assemblywoman Tucker

SYNOPSIS
Provides $21 minimum annual energy assistance to qualified families; qualifies families to receive additional nutritional assistance.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As introduced.
A2956 MOSQUERA, PRIETO

AN ACT concerning nutrition and energy assistance and
supplementing Title 44 of the Revised Statutes.

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

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law, rule or regulation
to the contrary, every household in the State that is eligible to
receive low-income home energy assistance benefits issued under
the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP),
established pursuant to Pub.L. 97-35, Title XXVI (42 U.S.C. s.8621
et seq.), shall receive a minimum annual payment of $21, or such
amount as required by federal law, in order to qualify the household
for a standard utility allowance under the Supplemental Nutrition
Assistance Program (SNAP) established pursuant to Pub. L. 95-113,
Title XIII (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.) and administered by the
Division of Family Development in the Department of Human
Services. This annual payment shall be disbursed by the
Department of Community Affairs in accordance with the
provisions of the LIHEAP program.

2. The Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with
the Commissioner of Community Affairs, shall adopt, pursuant to
the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1
et seq.), such rules and regulations as may be necessary to
implement this act.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill provides that, notwithstanding the provisions of any
law, rule or regulation to the contrary, every household in the State
that is eligible to receive low-income home energy assistance
benefits issued under the Low Income Home Energy Assistance
Program (LIHEAP) shall receive a minimum annual payment of
$21, or such amount as required by federal law, in order to qualify
the household for a standard utility allowance under the
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) administered
by the Division of Family Development in the Department of
Human Services. This annual payment shall be disbursed by the
Department of Community Affairs in accordance with the
provisions of the LIHEAP program.

Under the federal Agricultural Act of 2014, households that
qualify for LIHEAP assistance must receive more than $20 in
annual LIHEAP payments in order to maintain the household’s
eligibility for added SNAP benefits. This bill would ensure that
every household in the State that qualifies for LIHEAP would continue to receive the added SNAP benefits.