

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE, No. 2156

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 23, 2022

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably a Senate committee substitute for Senate Bill No. 2156.

The committee substitute establishes the State SNAP Minimum Benefit Program in the Division of Family Development in the Department of Human Services (DHS) to ensure that all SNAP households receive a minimum monthly benefit of \$50, and appropriates \$18 million from the General Fund to the DHS to accomplish the goals of the program. SNAP, or the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, is a nutrition assistance program that serves as a safety net for low-income households.

Under the program, the division is directed to distribute to each eligible household a monthly State SNAP benefit equal to the difference between the household's federal SNAP monthly benefit and \$50. The State SNAP benefit is to be provided to an eligible household in addition to the federal SNAP benefit. The bill defines eligible household to mean means a household that is certified to receive a federal SNAP benefit of at least one dollar per month, but less than \$50 per month.

The program is subject to the same State rules and procedures for implementing the federal SNAP to the greatest extent possible, including, but not limited to, distributing the State benefit using the program's Electronic Benefit Transfer system and requiring that benefits be used solely for the purchase of food as defined under federal law.

The substitute bill appropriates \$18 million from the General Fund to the DHS to implement the provisions of the bill. As reported by the committee, the Senate committee substitute for Senate Bill No. 2156 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2366, which was also reported by the committee on this date, with amendments.