As Introduced

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Representatives Russo, Sobecki

Cosponsors: Representatives Miranda, Miller, J., Galonski, Brent, Rogers, Weinstein, Skindell, Smith, K., Brown, Patterson, Lightbody, Blair, O’Brien, Lepore-Hagan, Howse, Crossman, Boyd, Clites, Liston, Upchurch, West

A BILL

To delay eligibility redeterminations for certain public assistance programs, temporarily modify income eligibility requirements for certain public assistance programs, and to declare an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. During the period of emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, issued on March 9, 2020, the Director of Job and Family Services shall waive income eligibility and client verification requirements for households seeking to participate in The Emergency Food Assistance Program.

Section 2. During the period of emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, issued on March 9, 2020, and for ninety days thereafter, county departments of job and family services shall not conduct eligibility redeterminations for publicly funded child care. Any family that would have been required to undergo an eligibility redetermination during this period shall continue to receive publicly funded child care.
Section 3. During the period of emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, issued on March 9, 2020, and for ninety days thereafter, county departments of job and family services shall not conduct eligibility redeterminations for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programs. Any assistance group that would have been required to undergo an eligibility redetermination during this period shall continue to receive benefits under the programs in which they are enrolled.

During the period of emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, issued on March 9, 2020, and for ninety days thereafter, any source of income that has been discontinued in the three months before an assistance group applies for benefits shall not be included when determining eligibility for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programs.

Section 4. This act is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety. The reason for such necessity is to provide assistance to families who experience financial hardship because of unemployment or underemployment caused by the restrictions and other precautions imposed as part of the state of emergency regarding COVID-19. Therefore, this act shall go into immediate effect.