

# ASSEMBLY, No. 3211

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 7, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes “New Jersey Feminine Hygiene Products for the Homeless Act.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



A3211 SPEIGHT

2

1 AN ACT concerning feminine hygiene products and emergency  
2 shelters for the homeless and supplementing P.L.1985, c.48  
3 (C.55:13C-1 et seq.).  
4

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

8 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “New Jersey  
9 Feminine Hygiene Products for the Homeless Act.”  
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11 2. The Legislature finds and declares that:

12 a. Period inequity is a chronic problem due to the fact that the  
13 cost of feminine hygiene products, including sales tax, is the same  
14 for women of all socioeconomic groups;

15 b. This unfortunately leads to hardships and disparities relative  
16 to feminine hygiene and women’s health in under-served  
17 communities, including for people with disabilities, minorities, and  
18 people experiencing homelessness;

19 c. Women typically have their menstrual cycles every 28 days  
20 starting in their pre-teen years and lasting through menopause,  
21 which means they need to buy feminine hygiene products every  
22 month of the year over the span of several decades;

23 d. The average menstrual cycle can last from between five to  
24 seven days, often requiring the purchase of multiple packages of  
25 feminine hygiene products for one cycle;

26 e. The combination of these factors can lead to astronomical,  
27 recurring costs for women in their menstruating years;

28 f. New Jersey has exempted feminine hygiene products, such  
29 as sanitary napkins and tampons, from the tax imposed under the  
30 Sales and Use Tax Act. In doing so, the State has recognized that it  
31 is financially burdensome for women to continue to purchase these  
32 products;

33 g. Many women and girls within New Jersey find themselves in  
34 need of temporary housing assistance within emergency shelters for  
35 the homeless; and the Department of Community Affairs, in  
36 conjunction with the Departments of Human Services and Health,  
37 has recognized this growing need by creating the Homelessness  
38 Prevention Program and the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid  
39 Re-Housing Program;

40 h. Women and girls who find themselves homeless still need  
41 feminine hygiene and sanitation products to the same extent as all  
42 other women;

43 i. Women and girls experiencing homelessness should not be  
44 burdened with the costs of feminine hygiene products while already  
45 experiencing financial and economic hardships resulting in them  
46 being unable to afford basic shelter; and

47 j. It is therefore necessary and important to create this “New  
48 Jersey Feminine Hygiene Products for the Homeless Act” to combat

A3211 SPEIGHT

1 period inequity and assist women and girls residing in emergency  
2 shelters for the homeless.

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4 3. Each emergency shelter for the homeless that serves female  
5 residents shall, subject to the availability of funds in the shelter's  
6 general budget, make feminine hygiene products, including, but not  
7 limited to, sanitary napkins, tampons, and panty liners, available  
8 free of charge to females residing in the emergency shelter for the  
9 homeless. A homeless shelter's obligation to satisfy the  
10 requirement of this section is contingent upon the availability of  
11 additional funds in the homeless shelter's budget that would permit  
12 the homeless shelter to both purchase feminine hygiene products as  
13 required by this section and continue its normal course of  
14 operations.

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16 4. The Department of Community Affairs shall adopt rules and  
17 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"  
18 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), necessary to implement the  
19 provisions of this act.

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21 5. This act shall take effect on the 30th day following  
22 enactment.

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STATEMENT

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27 This act, which is designated as the "New Jersey Feminine  
28 Hygiene Products for the Homeless Act," provides that emergency  
29 shelters for the homeless that provide services to female residents  
30 will be required, within the limits of available funds, to make  
31 feminine hygiene products, including, but not limited to, sanitary  
32 napkins, tampons, and panty liners, available free of charge to  
33 females residing in the shelter. It is the sponsor's intent that women  
34 and girls who are homeless not be burdened with the costs of  
35 feminine hygiene products while already experiencing financial and  
36 economic hardships.