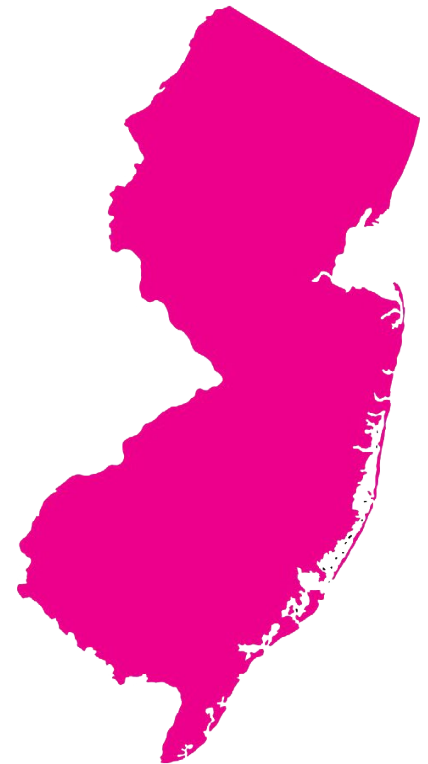




New Jersey Shelters Now Required to Provide Menstrual Products, According to New Law

Written By Hoboken Girl Team

The term “period poverty” might not be commonplace in some communities but limited access to menstrual supplies affects millions of people on a daily basis. Back in August, New Jersey took strides to help combat that issue — with the help of Jersey City-based, grassroots organization The Flow Initiative — passing a statewide mandate that requires public schools to provide free menstrual health products in grades 6-12.



Now, another bill has been passed by the state of New Jersey to further help combat period poverty. Bill A3211/S2302 was recently put into place by Governor Murphy, establishing the New Jersey Feminine Hygiene Products for the Homeless Act. This bill makes feminine hygiene products and sanitation products available in shelters for the unhoused.

Bill A3211/S2302: Menstrual Products in Shelters

Following the General Assembly approval in February 2023, the NJ State Senate approved the bill on January 8th, 2024 officially making Bill A3211/S2302 a law. The New Jersey Feminine Hygiene Products for the Homeless Act requires emergency shelters for the unhoused that serve female residents to make feminine hygiene products — including but not limited to sanitary napkins, tampons, and panty liners — to be available free of charge for females residing in the shelter.

The bill also mentions that women and girls who are unhoused “should not be burned with the costs of feminine hygiene products while already experiencing financial and economic hardships.” The act will take effect on the 30th day following the enactment.

In regards to Bill A3211/S2302 passing, Eiko La Boria, founder of The Flow Initiative, said “Today is another momentous victory in the fight for menstrual equity in New Jersey. Bill A3211 is an example of bipartisan leaders coming together to prioritize the health and well-being of menstruating individuals. When people don’t have access to menstrual health products, they, unfortunately, resort to unsafe and unsanitary alternatives which could result in health infections. Now, Bill A3211 can help reduce these issues in our state’s homeless shelters and improve our local communities.”



Partner at The Flow Initiative, Sabrina Browne, also added ““Period poverty impacts everyone who menstruates and it is exacerbated by the fact that menstrual health products are typically not publicly funded in budgets for schools, homeless shelters, and crisis emergency centers

The new legislation, Bill A3211, is positioned to help address this issue in our state’s homeless shelters and provide menstrual health products to those in need. By increasing access, we will help reduce the stigma and shame often associated with period poverty and help individuals achieve dignified menstruation.”

<https://www.hobokengirl.com/new-jersey-period-product-bill-a3211-s2302/#:~:text=S2302%20a%20law.-,The%20New%20Jersey%20Feminine%20Hygiene%20Products%20for%20the%20Homeless%20Act,females%20residing%20in%20the%20shelter.>