

Senate Bill No. 1534

CHAPTER 801

An act to add Part 5.8 (commencing with Section 17850) to Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public benefits.

[Approved by Governor September 29, 2006. Filed with Secretary of State September 29, 2006.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1534, Ortiz. Public benefits.

Federal law, Section 411 of the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), provides that certain persons are not eligible for defined state and local public benefits unless a state law is enacted subsequent to the effective date of the act, August 22, 1996, that affirmatively provides for that eligibility.

Existing law establishes programs to provide aid or health care, or a combination thereof, to persons who meet eligibility requirements.

Existing law requires each county or city and county to provide aid to its indigent population not supported by other means, and those county programs are commonly referred to as general assistance programs.

This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to affirm the ability of counties, cities, and hospital districts, at their own discretion, to provide health care and other services to all residents. The bill would authorize any city, county, city and county, or hospital district to provide aid, including health care, to persons who, but for the above-referred to provision of the federal PRWORA, would meet the eligibility requirements for any program of that entity.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Part 5.8 (commencing with Section 17850) is added to Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

PART 5.8. PUBLIC BENEFITS

17850. It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this part to affirm the ability of counties, cities, and hospital districts to provide health care and other services to all residents, if any of these entities has decided to do so at its own discretion.

17851. A city, county, city and county, or hospital district may, at its discretion, provide aid, including health care, to persons who, but for Section 411 of the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity

Reconciliation Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-193; 8 U.S.C. Sec. 1621), would meet eligibility requirements for any program of that entity.

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