

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 510

Introduced by Assembly Member Evans

February 24, 2009

An act to amend Section 11454.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to CalWORKs, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 510, as introduced, Evans. CalWORKs: aid amount calculation.

Existing federal law provides for allocation of federal funds through the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant program to eligible states, with California's version of this program being known as the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program.

Under the CalWORKs program each county provides cash assistance and other benefits to qualified low-income families and individuals who meet specified eligibility criteria.

Existing law continually appropriates money from the General Fund to pay for a share of aid grant costs under the CalWORKs program.

Under existing law, a parent or caretaker relative is ineligible to receive CalWORKs aid when he or she has received aid for a cumulative total of 60 months. Existing law excludes from this calculation months when specified conditions exist.

This bill, commencing January 1, 2009, would additionally exclude from the above calculation, months when a recipient has been excused from participating in welfare-to-work activities for good cause due to a lack of necessary supportive services resulting from insufficient CalWORKs funding in the annual Budget Act. By extending the period of eligibility under these circumstances, this bill would make an

appropriation. In addition, by increasing the duties of counties administering the CalWORKs program, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 11454.5 of the Welfare and Institutions
- 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 11454.5. (a) Any month in which the following conditions
- 4 exist shall not be counted as a month of receipt of aid for the
- 5 purposes of subdivision (a) of Section 11454:
- 6 (1) The recipient is exempt from participation under Article 3.2
- 7 (commencing with Section 11320) due to disability, or advanced
- 8 age in accordance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section
- 9 11320.3, or due to caretaking responsibilities that impair the
- 10 recipient's ability to be regularly employed, in accordance with
- 11 paragraph (4) or (5) of subdivision (b) of Section 11320.3.
- 12 (2) The recipient is eligible for, participating in, or exempt from,
- 13 the Cal-Learn Program provided for pursuant to Article 3.5
- 14 (commencing with Section 11331) or is participating in another
- 15 teen parent program approved by the department.
- 16 (3) The cost of the cash aid provided to the recipient for the
- 17 month is fully reimbursed by child support, whether collected in
- 18 that month or any subsequent month.
- 19 (4) The family is a former recipient of cash aid under this chapter
- 20 and currently receives only child care, case management, or
- 21 supportive services pursuant to Section 11323.2 or Article 15.5
- 22 (commencing with Section 8350) of Chapter 2 of Part 6 of the
- 23 Education Code.
- 24 (5) To the extent provided by federal law, the recipient lived in
- 25 Indian country, as defined by federal law, or an Alaskan native

1 village in which at least 50 percent of the adults living in the Indian
2 country or in the village are not employed.

3 (6) *On or after January 1, 2009, the recipient has been excused*
4 *from participation for good cause pursuant to paragraph (1) of*
5 *subdivision (f) of Section 11320.3 due to a lack of necessary*
6 *supportive services resulting from insufficient funding for*
7 *CalWORKs services in the annual Budget Act.*

8 (b) In cases where a lump-sum diversion payment is provided
9 in lieu of cash aid under Section 11266.5, the month in which the
10 payment is made or the months calculated pursuant to subdivision
11 (f) of Section 11266.5 shall count against the limits specified in
12 Section 11454.

13 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
14 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
15 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
16 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
17 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.