

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 6, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2018

Introduced by Assembly Member Skinner

February 17, 2010

~~An act relating to public social services.~~ *An act to add Section 11053.2 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2018, as amended, Skinner. Food stamps: intercounty transfer ~~study.~~ *of benefits.*

Existing law provides for the federal Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (*SNAP*), formerly the Food Stamp Program, under which food stamps are allocated to the state by the federal government and are distributed to eligible households by each county.

Existing law provides for the intercounty transfer (*ICT*) of benefits for recipients of CalWORKs, In-Home Supportive Services (*IHSS*), or Medi-Cal benefits that move from one county to another within the state, as prescribed.

~~This bill would require the department, in consultation and coordination with county welfare departments and consumer advocates, to conduct a study to, among other things, explore the annual cost savings that an ICT process for food stamp benefits that is consistent with the ICT process for CalWORKs, IHSS, and Medi-Cal may provide.~~

~~This bill would require the department to submit its findings to the Legislature by April 1, 2011, and would require the department to include recommended timelines, as specified.~~

This bill would require the State Department of Social Services to establish a process of intercounty transfer of eligibility for benefits

under SNAP when a recipient permanently changes residence from one county to another within the state. This bill would specify that, commencing no later than July 1, 2011, for recipients of SNAP benefits that are also recipients of CalWORKs benefits, the ICT process utilized for CalWORKs shall be used. This bill would further specify that, commencing no later than July 1, 2011, for recipients of SNAP benefits that are also recipients of Medi-Cal benefits, but not recipients of CalWORKs, the ICT process utilized for Medi-Cal shall be used.

This bill would require that, commencing no later than January 1, 2012, for recipients of SNAP benefits that are neither recipients of CalWORKs nor Medi-Cal benefits, an intercounty transfer process shall be developed, as specified. This bill would specify that it is the responsibility of the recipient changing residence from one county to another within the state to notify the county currently paying food stamp benefits of the move and to apply for redetermination of eligibility within the new county of residence. This bill would require the recipient’s old county of residence to notify the new county of residence of the recipient’s move as soon as the recipient’s location in the new county is known, and would require the new county of residence to be responsible for determining the recipient’s continued eligibility for benefits under SNAP.

To the extent that this would increase the duties of county officials that administer public aid programs, including the Medi-Cal program, CalWORKs, and the federal SNAP program, this 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: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
 State-mandated local program: ~~no~~-yes.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 11053.2 is added to the Welfare and
- 2 Institutions Code, to read:

1 11053.2. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, the department
2 shall establish a process of intercounty transfer of eligibility for
3 food stamp benefits provided under Chapter 10 (commencing with
4 Section 18900) of Part 6 when a recipient permanently changes
5 residence from one county to another within the state. The
6 intercounty transfer process shall facilitate a recipient's move
7 from one county to another without a break in benefits and without
8 requiring a new application to be submitted to the new county of
9 residence.

10 (b) For recipients who are receiving CalWORKs benefits
11 pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section 11250) of Chapter
12 10 of Part 6, the intercounty transfer process utilized for
13 CalWORKs shall be used. This subdivision shall be implemented
14 no later than July 1, 2011.

15 (c) For recipients who are receiving Medi-Cal benefits pursuant
16 to Article 1 (commencing with Section 14000) of Chapter 7, but
17 are not receiving CalWORKs benefits pursuant to Article 2
18 (commencing with Section 11250) of Chapter 10 of Part 6, the
19 intercounty transfer process utilized for the Medi-Cal program
20 shall be used. This subdivision shall be implemented no later than
21 July 1, 2011.

22 (d) For recipients who are not receiving CalWORKs or
23 Medi-Cal benefits as described in subdivisions (b) or (c), an
24 intercounty transfer process shall be developed, in consultation
25 with representatives of county human services departments and
26 advocates for recipients. To the greatest extent possible, the
27 process shall be simple, client friendly, ensure the client does not
28 need to provide copies of documents that were previously provided
29 to the old county of residence, build on existing processes for the
30 programs described in subdivisions (b) and (c), and minimize
31 workload for county eligibility operations. The process developed
32 pursuant to this subdivision shall be implemented no later than
33 January 1, 2012.

34 (e) Upon the implementation of the intercounty transfer
35 procedures set forth in this section, it shall be the responsibility
36 of a recipient changing residence from one county to another
37 within the state to notify the county currently paying food stamp
38 benefits of the move and to apply for a redetermination of eligibility
39 within the new county of residence. The old county of residence
40 shall notify the new county of the recipient's move as soon as the

1 recipient's location in the new county is known. The new county
2 of residence shall be responsible for determining the recipient's
3 continued eligibility for payment of food stamp benefits.

4 (f) The department shall implement this section by an all-county
5 letters or similar instructions from the director and shall adopt
6 regulations as otherwise necessary to implement this section no
7 later than January 1, 2012.

8 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
9 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
10 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
11 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
12 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

13 SECTION 1. ~~(a) The department, in consultation and~~
14 ~~coordination with county welfare departments and consumer~~
15 ~~advocates, shall conduct a study to explore all of the following:~~

16 ~~(1) The annual cost savings that an intercounty transfer (ICT)~~
17 ~~process for food stamp benefits that is consistent with the ICT~~
18 ~~process for CalWORKs, the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)~~
19 ~~program, and Medi-Cal may provide.~~

20 ~~(2) Any barriers that recipients of food stamp benefits experience~~
21 ~~that nonfood-stamp recipients of aid do not experience when their~~
22 ~~benefits are transferred using the ICT process.~~

23 ~~(3) Any impact that an ICT process for food stamp benefits~~
24 ~~would have on low-income recipients or prospective recipients of~~
25 ~~food stamp benefits.~~

26 ~~(b) The department shall submit its findings to the Legislature~~
27 ~~by April 1, 2011, and shall include recommended timelines for~~
28 ~~gradual electronic intercounty transfer of food stamp benefits both~~
29 ~~with and without the Statewide Automated Welfare System~~
30 ~~(SAWS) consortia for food stamp cases in California.~~