

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1691**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Bonnie Lowenthal**

February 15, 2012

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An act to amend Section 11322.8 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to CalWORKs.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1691, as introduced, Bonnie Lowenthal. CalWORKs: welfare-to-work activities.

Existing law requires each county to provide cash assistance and other social services to needy families through the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program using federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant program, state, and county funds. Under existing law, with certain exceptions, every individual, as a condition of eligibility for aid under the CalWORKs program, is required to participate in welfare-to-work activities. Under existing law, the activities in which a recipient may engage include various education and vocational training activities, as described, including English as a second language education. Certain of these activities are defined as core welfare-to-work activities, in which an adult recipient is required to participate for at least 20 hours each week.

This bill would include as a core welfare-to-work activity English as a second language education, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 11322.8 of the Welfare and Institutions  
2 Code is amended to read:

3 11322.8. (a) Unless otherwise exempt, an adult recipient in a  
4 one-parent assistance unit shall participate in welfare-to-work  
5 activities for 32 hours each week.

6 (b) Unless otherwise exempt, an adult recipient who is an  
7 unemployed parent, as defined in Section 11201, shall participate  
8 in at least 35 hours of welfare-to-work activities each week.  
9 However, both parents in a two-parent assistance unit may  
10 contribute to the 35 hours if at least one parent meets the federal  
11 one-parent work requirement applicable on January 1, 1998.

12 (c) An adult recipient required to participate under subdivision  
13 (a) or (b) shall participate for at least 20 hours each week in core  
14 welfare-to-work activities. The welfare-to-work activities listed  
15 in subdivisions (a) to (j), inclusive, *English as a second language*  
16 *education as listed in subdivision (k)*, and (m) and (n), of Section  
17 11322.6, are core activities for the purposes of this section.  
18 *Participation in English as a second language education under*  
19 *subdivision (k) of Section 11322.6 as a core activity shall be limited*  
20 *to a total of eight months. On a case-by-case basis, a county may*  
21 *extend this period of time to 12 months. Following the receipt of*  
22 *these services as a core activity, an adult recipient may continue*  
23 *to participate in this activity as a noncore activity.* Participation  
24 in core activities under subdivision (m) of Section 11322.6 shall  
25 be limited to a total of 12 months. Additional hours that the  
26 applicant or recipient is required to participate under subdivisions  
27 (a) or (b) of this section may be satisfied by any of the  
28 welfare-to-work activities described in Section 11322.6 that are  
29 consistent with the assessment performed in accordance with  
30 Section 11325.4, and included in the individual's welfare-to-work  
31 plan, described in Section 11325.21.

32 (d) Hours spent in activities listed under subdivision (q) of  
33 Section 11322.6 shall count toward the core activity requirement  
34 in subdivision (c) to the extent that these activities are necessary  
35 to enable the individual to participate in core activities and to the  
36 extent these activities cannot be accomplished within the additional  
37 noncore hours of participation required by subdivision (c).

1 (e) Hours spent in classroom, laboratory, or internship activities  
2 pursuant to subdivisions (k), (l), (o), and (p) of Section 11322.6  
3 shall count toward the core activity requirement in subdivision (c)  
4 to the extent these activities cannot be accomplished within the  
5 additional noncore hours of participation, the county determines  
6 the program is likely to lead to self-supporting employment, and  
7 the recipient makes satisfactory progress. The provisions in  
8 paragraph (2), and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3), of  
9 subdivision (a) of Section 11325.23 shall apply to participants in  
10 these activities.

11 (f) Spending hours in any or all of the activities specified in  
12 subdivision (r) of Section 11322.6 shall not make a recipient  
13 ineligible to count activities set forth in subdivisions (d) and (e)  
14 toward the core activities requirements, as appropriate.

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