

**Introduced by Senator Wright**February 16, 2011

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An act to amend Section 10618.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 465, as introduced, Wright. Public social services: CalFresh, Medi-Cal, and Healthy Families.

Existing federal law provides for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known in California as the CalFresh Program, formerly the Food Stamp Program, under which food stamps allocated to the state by the federal government are distributed to eligible individuals by each county. Existing law establishes the Medi-Cal program, administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, under which basic health care services are provided to qualified low-income persons. Existing law creates the Healthy Families Program, administered by the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, to arrange for the provision of health, dental, and vision benefits to eligible children pursuant to the federal Children's Health Insurance Program.

Existing law requires a county welfare department to send any food stamp applicant who is determined to be eligible for CalFresh and who does not indicate on his or her application an interest in enrolling in the Medi-Cal program a copy of a specified notice developed by the county to inform CalFresh recipients with information regarding the Medi-Cal program and the Healthy Families Program.

This bill would require the notice provided by the county to be made within 90 days of the determination of CalFresh eligibility. By imposing a higher level of service on county welfare departments in connection

with administering CalFresh, this bill would create a state-mandated local program.

This bill also would make various nonsubstantive, technical changes.

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: yes.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 10618.5 of the Welfare and Institutions  
 2 Code is amended to read:  
 3 10618.5. (a) The county welfare department shall send any  
 4 ~~food stamp~~ CalFresh applicant who is determined to be eligible  
 5 for ~~food stamps~~ CalFresh and who does not indicate on his or her  
 6 application an interest in enrolling in the Medi-Cal program a copy  
 7 of the notice developed pursuant to subdivision (b), *within 90 days*  
 8 *of the determination of eligibility.*  
 9 (b) (1) Each county welfare department shall develop a notice  
 10 informing individuals identified pursuant to subdivision (a) that  
 11 they may be entitled to receive Medi-Cal benefits and requesting  
 12 their permission to use the information in the ~~food stamp~~ CalFresh  
 13 recipient’s case file to make a determination of eligibility for the  
 14 Medi-Cal program.  
 15 (2) The notice shall also include a request for permission to  
 16 forward the information in the ~~food stamp~~ CalFresh recipient’s  
 17 case file to the Healthy Families Program administrator for  
 18 eligibility determination if the individual is determined to be  
 19 eligible to participate in the Medi-Cal program with a share of  
 20 cost, or is determined to be ineligible for Medi-Cal.  
 21 (3) To apply for medical assistance under the Medi-Cal program,  
 22 the ~~food stamp~~ CalFresh recipient shall sign, date, and return the  
 23 notice requesting that an eligibility determination be made.  
 24 (4) Upon receipt of the notice, the county welfare department  
 25 shall make an eligibility determination by utilizing the information

1 in the ~~food stamp~~ *CalFresh* recipient's case file or paper  
2 application. The Medi-Cal application date shall be the date the  
3 notice is received by the county welfare department.

4 (5) If the ~~food stamp~~ *CalFresh* case file does not include  
5 sufficient information to establish Medi-Cal program eligibility,  
6 the county welfare department shall request, either orally or in  
7 writing, additional information from the ~~food stamp~~ *CalFresh*  
8 recipient.

9 (6) The notice shall be written in culturally and linguistically  
10 appropriate language and at an appropriate literacy level. The  
11 notice shall include information on the Medi-Cal program and the  
12 Healthy Families Program, a telephone number that ~~food stamp~~  
13 *CalFresh* recipients may call for additional information, and a  
14 prepaid means of returning the notice to the county welfare  
15 department to begin the eligibility determination process.

16 (c) If an individual identified in subdivision (a) or (b) is  
17 determined to be eligible to participate in the Medi-Cal program  
18 with a share of cost, or is determined to be ineligible for Medi-Cal,  
19 information pertinent to the ~~food stamp~~ *CalFresh* recipient's  
20 eligibility for the Healthy Families Program shall be forwarded  
21 by the county welfare department to the Healthy Families Program  
22 statewide administrator for immediate processing. If there is  
23 insufficient information to establish Healthy Families Program  
24 eligibility, the administrator shall request, either orally or in  
25 writing, additional information from the ~~food stamp~~ *CalFresh*  
26 recipient.

27 (d) Counties shall include the cost of implementing this section  
28 in their annual administrative budget requests to the State  
29 Department of Health *Care Services*.

30 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that  
31 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to  
32 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made  
33 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division  
34 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.