

Introduced by Senator De LeónJanuary 17, 2012

An act to add Sections 15927 and 15928 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to health and human services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 970, as introduced, De León. Health Care Reform Eligibility, Enrollment, and Retention Planning Act: coordination with other programs.

Existing law, the Health Care Reform Eligibility, Enrollment, and Retention Planning Act, requires the California Health and Human Services Agency, in consultation with specified entities, to establish standardized single, accessible application forms and related renewal procedures for state health subsidy programs, as defined, in accordance with specified requirements.

This bill would require a county human services department to allow an applicant initially applying for, or renewing, health care coverage using the single state application developed pursuant to the act, with the applicant's consent, to have his or her application information used to simultaneously initiate applications for CalWORKs and CalFresh, and would similarly require the county to assess CalFresh recipients for potential state health subsidy program eligibility, as specified. The bill would require the California Health and Human Services Agency to convene a workgroup of human services and health care advocates, legislative staff, and other specified representatives, to identify other human services and work support programs that might be integrated into this cross-application process. Implementation of the process created by the bill would be required by December 31, 2015, except as specified.

By imposing new duties on counties, 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: yes.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 15927 is added to the Welfare and
2 Institutions Code, to read:

3 15927. (a) At the time of initial application for, or renewal of,
4 health care coverage using the single state application described
5 in subdivision (c) of Section 15926, an individual may consent to
6 have his or her application information used by the appropriate
7 county human services department to initiate a simultaneous
8 application for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility
9 to Kids (CalWORKs) and CalFresh programs, and by other state
10 or local departments, as appropriate, for other human services or
11 work support programs identified by the workgroup established
12 in subdivision (c).

13 (b) (1) If information a beneficiary submits is sufficient to meet
14 the requirements for a CalWORKs or CalFresh report or
15 recertification, as specified in Sections 11265, 11265.1, 11265.2,
16 and 18925, the county human services department, with the
17 beneficiary’s consent, shall use that information to continue or
18 recertify CalWORKs or CalFresh benefits for all eligible household
19 members.

20 (2) CalWORKs or CalFresh eligibility renewed or recertified
21 pursuant to this subdivision shall continue for the maximum time
22 allowed or required by state and federal law or guidance. All
23 scheduled renewal, recertification, or reporting dates required
24 under these programs, as applicable, shall be revised accordingly,
25 to be calculated from the date of redetermination as established
26 pursuant to this section.

1 (c) The California Health and Human Services Agency shall
2 convene a workgroup of human services and health care advocates,
3 legislative staff, representatives of county human services
4 departments and county eligibility workers, and staff from
5 appropriate state and local departments, to consider and develop
6 a plan for the integration of additional human services and work
7 support programs into the process described in subdivision (a).

8 (d) This section shall be implemented by December 31, 2015.

9 SEC. 2. Section 15928 is added to the Welfare and Institutions
10 Code, to read:

11 15928. (a) By October 1, 2013, a county human services
12 agency shall do all of the following, using data to which the agency
13 has access:

14 (1) Identify nonassistance CalFresh recipients who are not
15 currently enrolled in a state health subsidy program.

16 (2) Inform the recipients identified in paragraph (1) of the
17 requirement to be enrolled in health coverage under the PPACA,
18 and of their right to, and likely eligibility for, free or low-cost
19 health coverage. With a recipient's consent, and if information in
20 his or her CalFresh case file is sufficient to establish eligibility for
21 health care coverage, the recipient shall be enrolled into the state
22 health subsidy program for which he or she is eligible, beginning
23 on the earliest date that the recipient is eligible.

24 (b) For a CalFresh recipient identified pursuant to paragraph
25 (1) of subdivision (a) who cannot be enrolled into a state health
26 subsidy program based upon the information available within the
27 case file, the county shall make every reasonable effort to contact
28 the CalFresh recipient to obtain the information needed to enroll
29 the recipient in a state health subsidy program.

30 (c) The information shared pursuant to this section shall be used
31 exclusively for the purposes specified in this section.

32 (d) The department, in conjunction with counties, the State
33 Department of Social Services, and representatives of the Statewide
34 Automated Welfare System (SAWS) consortia, consumers, and
35 other affected stakeholder groups, shall conduct a planning process
36 and develop administrative enrollment and renewal policies and
37 procedures, which the department shall implement by means of
38 all-county letters or similar instructions from the director.

39 SEC. 3. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
40 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to

- 1 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
- 2 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
- 3 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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