

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 23, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2311

Introduced by Assembly Member Bradford

February 21, 2014

An act to ~~amend~~ *amend, repeal, and add* Section 17001.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2311, as amended, Bradford. General assistance: employable veterans.

Existing law requires each county to provide aid to its indigent residents not supported by other means. These county programs are known as general assistance programs.

Existing law permits a county to prohibit an employable individual from receiving general assistance benefits for more than 3 months in any 12-month period, whether or not the months are consecutive, if he or she has been offered an opportunity to attend job skills or job training sessions.

This bill ~~would provide that the prohibition shall not apply to~~ *would, commencing July 1, 2015, exempt from that prohibition* an employable veteran who was honorably discharged from the ~~armed forces~~ *Armed Forces, unless the county enacts an ordinance making the prohibition applicable to an employable veteran who was honorably discharged from the Armed Forces. By expanding* requiring a county to expand eligibility for general assistance programs, *or enact an ordinance to make the prohibition applicable to an employable veteran,* 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. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
- 2 General Assistance “Thank You For Your Service” Act of 2014.
- 3 SEC. 2. Section 17001.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code
- 4 is amended to read:
- 5 17001.5. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, including, but
- 6 not limited to, Section 17000.5, the board of supervisors of each
- 7 county, or the agency authorized by the county charter, may do
- 8 any of the following:
- 9 (1) (A) Adopt residency requirements for purposes of
- 10 determining a persons’ eligibility for general assistance. Any
- 11 residence requirement under this paragraph shall not exceed 15
- 12 days.
- 13 (B) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to authorize
- 14 the adoption of a requirement that an applicant or recipient have
- 15 an address or to require a homeless person to acquire an address.
- 16 (2) (A) Establish a standard of general assistance for applicants
- 17 and recipients who share housing with one or more unrelated
- 18 persons or with one or more persons who are not legally
- 19 responsible for the applicant or recipient. The standard of general
- 20 assistance aid established pursuant to Section 17000.5 for a single
- 21 adult applicant or recipient may be reduced pursuant to this
- 22 paragraph by not more than the following percentages, as
- 23 appropriate:
- 24 (i) Fifteen percent if the applicant or recipient shares housing
- 25 with one other person described in this subparagraph.
- 26 (ii) Twenty percent if the applicant or recipient shares housing
- 27 with two other persons described in this subparagraph.

1 (iii) Twenty-five percent if the applicant or recipient shares
2 housing with three or more other persons described in this
3 paragraph.

4 (B) Any standard of aid adopted pursuant to this paragraph shall
5 constitute a sufficient standard of aid for any recipient who shares
6 housing.

7 (C) Counties with shared housing reductions larger than the
8 amounts specified in subparagraph (A) as of August 19, 1992, may
9 continue to apply those adjustments.

10 (3) Discontinue aid under this part for a period of not more than
11 180 days with respect to any recipient who is employable and has
12 received aid under this part for three months if the recipient engages
13 in any of the following conduct:

14 (A) Fails, or refuses, without good cause, to participate in a
15 qualified job training program, participation of which is a condition
16 of receipt of assistance.

17 (B) After completion of a job training program, fails, or refuses,
18 without good cause, to accept an offer of appropriate employment.

19 (C) Persistently fails, or refuses, without good cause, to
20 cooperate with the county in its efforts to do any of the following:

21 (i) Enroll the recipient in a job training program.

22 (ii) After completion of a job training program, locate and secure
23 appropriate employment for the recipient.

24 (D) For purposes of this paragraph, lack of good cause may be
25 demonstrated by a showing of any of the following:

26 (i) The willful failure, or refusal, of the recipient to participate
27 in a job training program, accept appropriate employment, or
28 cooperate in enrolling in a training program or locating
29 employment.

30 (ii) Not less than three separate acts of negligent failure of the
31 recipient to engage in any of the activities described in clause (i).

32 (4) Prohibit an employable ~~individual, other than an employable~~
33 ~~veteran who was honorably discharged from the armed forces,~~
34 *individual* from receiving aid under this part for more than three
35 months in any 12-month period, whether or not the months are
36 consecutive. This paragraph shall apply to aid received on or after
37 the effective date of this paragraph. This paragraph shall apply
38 only to those individuals who have been offered an opportunity to
39 attend job skills or job training sessions.

1 (5) Notwithstanding paragraph (3), discontinue aid to, or
2 sanction, recipients for failure or refusal without good cause to
3 follow program requirements. For purposes of this subdivision,
4 lack of good cause may be demonstrated by a showing of either
5 (A) willful failure or refusal of the recipient to follow program
6 requirements, or (B) not less than three separate acts of negligent
7 failure of the recipient to follow program requirements.

8 (b) (1) The Legislative Analyst shall conduct an evaluation of
9 the impact of this section on general assistance recipients and
10 applicants.

11 (2) The evaluation required by paragraph (1) shall include, but
12 need not be limited to, all of the following:

13 (A) The impact on the extent of homelessness among applicants
14 and recipients of general assistance.

15 (B) The rate at which recipients of general assistance are
16 sanctioned by county welfare departments.

17 (C) The impact of the 15-day residency requirement on
18 applicants or recipients of general assistance, including how often
19 the requirement is invoked.

20 (3) The Legislative Analyst shall, in the conduct of the study
21 required by this section, consult with the State Department of
22 Social Services, the County Welfare Directors Association, and
23 organizations that advocate on behalf of recipients of general
24 assistance.

25 (c) A county may provide aid pursuant to Section 17000.5 either
26 by cash assistance, in-kind aid, a two-party payment, voucher
27 payment, or check drawn to the order of a third-party provider of
28 services to the recipient. Nothing shall restrict a county from
29 providing more than one method of aid to an individual recipient.

30 (d) *This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2015, and,
31 as of January 1, 2016, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,
32 that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2016, deletes or
33 extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.*

34 *SEC. 3. Section 17001.5 is added to the Welfare and Institutions
35 Code, to read:*

36 *17001.5. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, including, but
37 not limited to, Section 17000.5, the board of supervisors of each
38 county, or the agency authorized by the county charter, may do
39 any of the following:*

1 (1) (A) Adopt residency requirements for purposes of
2 determining a person's eligibility for general assistance. Any
3 residence requirement under this paragraph shall not exceed 15
4 days.

5 (B) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to authorize
6 the adoption of a requirement that an applicant or recipient have
7 an address or to require a homeless person to acquire an address.

8 (2) (A) Establish a standard of general assistance for applicants
9 and recipients who share housing with one or more unrelated
10 persons or with one or more persons who are not legally
11 responsible for the applicant or recipient. The standard of general
12 assistance aid established pursuant to Section 17000.5 for a single
13 adult applicant or recipient may be reduced pursuant to this
14 paragraph by not more than the following percentages, as
15 appropriate:

16 (i) Fifteen percent if the applicant or recipient shares housing
17 with one other person described in this subparagraph.

18 (ii) Twenty percent if the applicant or recipient shares housing
19 with two other persons described in this subparagraph.

20 (iii) Twenty-five percent if the applicant or recipient shares
21 housing with three or more other persons described in this
22 paragraph.

23 (B) Any standard of aid adopted pursuant to this paragraph
24 shall constitute a sufficient standard of aid for any recipient who
25 shares housing.

26 (C) Counties with shared housing reductions larger than the
27 amounts specified in subparagraph (A) as of August 19, 1992, may
28 continue to apply those adjustments.

29 (3) Discontinue aid under this part for a period of not more
30 than 180 days with respect to any recipient who is employable and
31 has received aid under this part for three months if the recipient
32 engages in any of the following conduct:

33 (A) Fails, or refuses, without good cause, to participate in a
34 qualified job training program, participation of which is a
35 condition of receipt of assistance.

36 (B) After completion of a job training program, fails, or refuses,
37 without good cause, to accept an offer of appropriate employment.

38 (C) Persistently fails, or refuses, without good cause, to
39 cooperate with the county in its efforts to do any of the following:

40 (i) Enroll the recipient in a job training program.

1 (ii) After completion of a job training program, locate and
2 secure appropriate employment for the recipient.

3 (D) For purposes of this paragraph, lack of good cause may be
4 demonstrated by a showing of any of the following:

5 (i) The willful failure, or refusal, of the recipient to participate
6 in a job training program, accept appropriate employment, or
7 cooperate in enrolling in a training program or locating
8 employment.

9 (ii) Not less than three separate acts of negligent failure of the
10 recipient to engage in any of the activities described in clause (i).

11 (4) (A) Prohibit an employable individual, other than an
12 employable veteran who was honorably discharged from the Armed
13 Forces, from receiving aid under this part for more than three
14 months in any 12-month period, whether or not the months are
15 consecutive. This paragraph shall apply only to those individuals
16 who have been offered an opportunity to attend job skills or job
17 training sessions.

18 (B) The board of supervisors of a county may enact an ordinance
19 providing that any employable individual is subject to the limitation
20 contained in subparagraph (A) notwithstanding the fact that he
21 or she is an employable veteran who was honorably discharged
22 from the armed forces.

23 (5) Notwithstanding paragraph (3), discontinue aid to, or
24 sanction, recipients for failure or refusal without good cause to
25 follow program requirements. For purposes of this subdivision,
26 lack of good cause may be demonstrated by a showing of either
27 (A) willful failure or refusal of the recipient to follow program
28 requirements, or (B) not less than three separate acts of negligent
29 failure of the recipient to follow program requirements.

30 (b) (1) The Legislative Analyst shall conduct an evaluation of
31 the impact of this section on general assistance recipients and
32 applicants.

33 (2) The evaluation required by paragraph (1) shall include, but
34 need not be limited to, all of the following:

35 (A) The impact on the extent of homelessness among applicants
36 and recipients of general assistance.

37 (B) The rate at which recipients of general assistance are
38 sanctioned by county welfare departments.

1 (C) *The impact of the 15-day residency requirement on*
2 *applicants or recipients of general assistance, including how often*
3 *the requirement is invoked.*

4 (3) *The Legislative Analyst shall, in the conduct of the study*
5 *required by this section, consult with the State Department of*
6 *Social Services, the County Welfare Directors Association, and*
7 *organizations that advocate on behalf of recipients of general*
8 *assistance.*

9 (c) *A county may provide aid pursuant to Section 17000.5 either*
10 *by cash assistance, in-kind aid, a two-party payment, voucher*
11 *payment, or check drawn to the order of a third-party provider of*
12 *services to the recipient. Nothing shall restrict a county from*
13 *providing more than one method of aid to an individual recipient.*

14 (d) *This section shall become operative on July 1, 2015.*

15 ~~SEC. 3.~~

16 SEC. 4. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
17 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
18 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
19 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
20 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.