

Introduced by Senator Liu

February 13, 2014

An act to amend Section 18926.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to social services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 999, as introduced, Liu. CalFresh Employment and Training Program.

Existing law authorizes counties to participate in the CalFresh Employment and Training Program (CalFresh E&T), established by federal law with the purpose of assisting members of CalFresh households in gaining skills, training, work, or experience that will increase their ability to obtain regular employment. Existing law requires participating counties to screen CalFresh work registrants to determine whether the registrants will participate in, or be deferred from, the CalFresh E&T program.

This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to those provisions.

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 18926.5 of the Welfare and Institutions
- 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 18926.5. (a) For the purposes of this chapter, "CalFresh
- 4 Employment and Training program" or "CalFresh E&T" means
- 5 the program established under Section 6(d)(4)(B) of the federal
- 6 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. Sec. 2015), Section

1 273.7 of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and associated
2 administrative notices published by the United States Department
3 of Agriculture with the purpose of assisting members of CalFresh
4 households in gaining skills, training, work, or experience that will
5 increase their ability to obtain regular employment.

6 (b) (1) A county that elects to participate in the CalFresh
7 Employment and Training (CalFresh E&T) program, as authorized
8 by the federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. Sec. 2015),
9 shall screen CalFresh work registrants to determine whether they
10 will participate in, or be deferred from, the CalFresh E&T program.
11 If deferred, a CalFresh work registrant may request to enroll in the
12 CalFresh E&T program as a voluntary participant. An individual
13 shall be deferred from a mandatory placement in the CalFresh
14 E&T program if he or she satisfies any of the criteria in Sections
15 273.7 and 273.24 of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, if
16 he or she resides in a federally determined work surplus area, or
17 if he or she is a veteran who has been honorably discharged from
18 the United States Armed Forces.

19 (2) For purposes of this section, “deferred” has the same
20 meaning as exempt.

21 (c) (1) A county that elects to participate in the CalFresh E&T
22 program shall be required to demonstrate in its CalFresh E&T plan
23 how it is effectively using CalFresh E&T funds for each of the
24 components that the county offers, including, but not limited to,
25 any of the following:

26 (A) Self-initiated workfare.

27 (B) Work experience or training.

28 (C) Education.

29 (D) Job search.

30 (E) The support services or client reimbursements needed to
31 participate in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, as allowed by
32 federal law and guidance.

33 ~~Nothing in this~~ This section shall *not* be construed to require
34 a county to offer a particular component as a part of its CalFresh
35 E&T plan.

36 ~~Nothing in this section shall~~ This section does not limit a
37 county’s ability to condition the receipt of nonmedical benefits
38 under Section 17000 on an individual’s participation in an
39 employment and training or workfare program of the county’s

1 choice, even if that program is financed in whole or in part with
2 CalFresh E&T funds or match funds.

3 (e) ~~Nothing in this section shall~~ *This section does not* restrict
4 the use of federal funds for the financing of CalFresh E&T
5 programs.

6 (f) ~~Nothing in this~~ *This section shall not* be construed to require
7 a county to provide for workers' compensation coverage for a
8 CalFresh E&T participant. Notwithstanding Division 4
9 (commencing with Section 3200) of the Labor Code, a CalFresh
10 E&T participant shall not be an employee for the purposes of
11 workers' compensation coverage and a county shall have no duty
12 to provide workers' compensation coverage for a CalFresh E&T
13 participant.

14 (g) Notwithstanding the rulemaking provisions of the
15 Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with
16 Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government
17 Code), the department may implement this section by all-county
18 letters or similar instructions. Thereafter, the department shall
19 adopt regulations to implement this section by October 1, 2013.