

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 28, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1809**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Lopez**  
*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Gipson and Mullin)*  
*(Coauthors: Senators Hertzberg and Mitchell)*

February 8, 2016

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An act to amend Section 95504 of the Government Code, and to amend Sections 11151, 11257.5, 11322.5, 11375, 11450, 11450.5, 14140, and 18923 of, and to repeal Sections 11155, 11155.1, 11155.2, 11155.6, 11157.5, 11257, and 11260 of, the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to CalWORKs.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1809, as amended, Lopez. CalWORKs eligibility: asset limits.

Existing federal law provides for allocation of federal funds through the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant program to eligible states, with California's version of this program being known as the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program. Under the CalWORKs program, each county provides cash assistance and other benefits to qualified low-income families and individuals who meet specified eligibility criteria, including limitations on income and assets generally applicable to public assistance programs. Existing law continuously appropriates money from the General Fund to pay for a share of aid grant costs under the CalWORKs program.

This bill would repeal those limitations on assets with regard to eligibility for CalWORKs, ~~thereby~~, *thereby* eliminating the consideration of an individual's or family's assets as a condition of eligibility for

CalWORKs. The bill would also make conforming changes. By increasing the duties of counties administering the CalWORKs program, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would declare that no appropriation would be made for purposes of the bill pursuant to the provision continuously appropriating funds for the CalWORKs 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. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3 (a) In 1996, the United States Congress passed the Personal  
4 Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act  
5 (PRWORA), known as welfare reform, which created the  
6 Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program. TANF  
7 gives states power to design their own programs, including  
8 establishing asset limits. The California Work Opportunity and  
9 Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program is California's  
10 program that implements federal welfare reform provisions.

11 (b) In California, to qualify for public assistance under  
12 CalWORKs, impoverished families must demonstrate that they  
13 are both income- and asset- poor. Under current law, a low-income  
14 family will not qualify for assistance if the family has savings or  
15 other assets, excluding a home and a vehicle of a specific value,  
16 exceeding the asset limit of \$2,000. The asset test has been  
17 removed for both CalFresh and Medi-Cal.

18 (c) Research published in 2015 shows that very few families  
19 (0.1 percent) applying for or receiving CalWORKs assistance are  
20 found to exceed the vehicle and cash asset test.

21 (d) Other states, realizing that very few families had assets over  
22 the limit, have removed the limit with the goal of streamlining the

1 eligibility process and cutting down on administrative costs. In  
2 Virginia, this decision has saved the state an estimated \$400,000  
3 annually, and to date, the State of Virginia has reported no negative  
4 impacts. A study published in 2015 has estimated that if California  
5 were to repeal the CalWORKs asset limit, there would be minimal  
6 to no increase in caseloads and an annual \$6.4 million in  
7 administrative savings allowing county case workers to spend less  
8 time reviewing the value of vehicles and savings and more time  
9 helping people get the resources they need to get back to work.

10 (e) Asset limits were intended to ensure that public assistance  
11 programs provide benefits only to those with too few resources to  
12 support themselves. But years of research and practitioner  
13 experience has proven that personal savings and assets are precisely  
14 the kinds of resources that allow people to move off public benefits  
15 programs. Without being able to maintain or build up a small  
16 savings cushion, these families are highly vulnerable to falling  
17 into debt in the event of an emergency or other unexpected expense.

18 (f) It is the intent of the Legislature to repeal the asset test for  
19 the CalWORKs program, thereby aligning program rules with  
20 Medi-Cal and CalFresh, making the program more efficient, and  
21 increasing the capacity of poor families to exit poverty.

22 SEC. 2. Section 95504 of the Government Code is amended  
23 to read:

24 95504. (a) The nonprofit facilitator shall subcontract with  
25 service providers to implement the project around the state. The  
26 nonprofit facilitator shall make an attempt to select service  
27 providers for programs of different size, geographical distribution,  
28 and target population to be served. Additionally, the nonprofit  
29 facilitator may consider giving special consideration to service  
30 providers that demonstrate partnerships with local public agencies.

31 (b) The service providers shall perform all of the following  
32 duties in implementing the project:

33 (1) Recruit and select participants who meet the following  
34 criteria:

35 (A) The individual is at least 18 years of age.

36 (B) The individual is a member of a household with an income  
37 of not more than 80 percent of the area median income based on  
38 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development  
39 guidelines at the time of program enrollment.

- 1 (C) The individual is not a dependent of another person for  
2 federal income tax purposes.
- 3 (D) The individual is not a debtor for a judgment resulting from  
4 nonpayment of a court-ordered child support obligation.
- 5 (E) The individual meets eligibility criteria as defined by the  
6 funding source for the program created under this title.
- 7 (2) Develop and sign contracts with each participant, to include  
8 all program requirements and policies governing the participant's  
9 account.
- 10 (3) Assist participants in opening individual development  
11 accounts. The accounts shall be established using an account  
12 structure parallel to a restricted account as described in former  
13 Section 11155.2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code that meets  
14 both of the following requirements:
  - 15 (A) One separate account shall be established for each  
16 participant in a federally or state insured financial institution,  
17 community development financial institution, any financial  
18 institution eligible to hold an individual retirement account, or  
19 community development credit union, in which each participant's  
20 savings are deposited and maintained. The program participant  
21 may withdraw his or her own savings at any time.
  - 22 (B) Another separate, parallel account shall be established and  
23 maintained by service providers in which the matching funds from  
24 state, federal, and private donations are kept. The parallel account  
25 may contain all matching funds for a pool of any service provider's  
26 participants.
- 27 (4) Help individuals receive their matching funds at the  
28 conclusion of the program.
- 29 (5) Provide participants with a minimum of 12 hours of financial  
30 education and training. The education and training shall include,  
31 but need not be limited to, all of the following:
  - 32 (A) Household and personal budget management.
  - 33 (B) Economic literacy.
  - 34 (C) Credit repair.
- 35 (6) Develop a program dismissal process for participants who  
36 do not fulfill program participation requirements, and seek to  
37 ensure that matching funds are used for their intended purposes.
- 38 (7) Collect and maintain information about their programs, in  
39 a manner that provides the capacity to report semiannually all of  
40 the following information to the department:

- 1 (A) The number and demographic characteristics of participants
  - 2 enrolled in the program.
  - 3 (B) The number of accounts established.
  - 4 (C) The individual and aggregate savings level of participants.
  - 5 (D) The number of participants who closed accounts and the
  - 6 amount of associated savings.
  - 7 (E) The actual and proposed program budget.
  - 8 (F) The size and origin of matching pool funds received,
  - 9 obligated, and paid to participants.
  - 10 (G) The program achievements and obstacles.
  - 11 (H) Twelve-month program and financial projections.
  - 12 (I) At least one participant profile.
- 13 SEC. 3. Section 11151 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is
- 14 amended to read:
- 15 11151. An applicant or recipient shall be ineligible to receive
- 16 public assistance unless the property he *or she* owns is held for
- 17 the following purposes:
- 18 (a) The property is used to provide the applicant or recipient
  - 19 with a home and conforms to the provisions of Section 11152.
  - 20 (b) The property is producing income for the support of the
  - 21 applicant or recipient and conforms to the provisions of Section
  - 22 11153.7.
  - 23 (c) The property is held as a reserve to meet a contingent need,
  - 24 not included within the standard of assistance for which an aid
  - 25 payment is made, and conforms to the provisions of Section 11154.
  - 26 (d) The property is personal in nature, or meets a special need
  - 27 of the applicant or recipient, or is part of a self-care or rehabilitation
  - 28 plan, or is not available for expenditure or disposition by the
  - 29 applicant or recipient.
- 30 SEC. 4. Section 11155 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is
- 31 repealed.
- 32 SEC. 5. Section 11155.1 of the Welfare and Institutions Code
- 33 is repealed.
- 34 SEC. 6. Section 11155.2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code
- 35 is repealed.
- 36 SEC. 7. Section 11155.6 of the Welfare and Institutions Code
- 37 is repealed.
- 38 SEC. 8. Section 11157.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code
- 39 is repealed.

1 SEC. 9. Section 11257 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is  
2 repealed.

3 SEC. 10. Section 11257.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code  
4 is amended to read:

5 11257.5. A family may retain, for nine months, real property  
6 if the family is making a good faith effort to sell the real property.  
7 However, any aid payable to the family for the nine-month period  
8 shall be conditioned upon the sale. At the time of the sale any aid  
9 payments made during the nine-month period shall be considered  
10 overpayments to the extent they would not have been made had  
11 the sale occurred at the beginning of the nine-month period.  
12 Notwithstanding Section 11004 overpayments shall be recouped  
13 from the proceeds of the sale.

14 Notwithstanding Section 11007 as a condition to the granting  
15 of aid pursuant to this section, the family shall grant the county a  
16 lien upon the real property as security for the aid to be paid. The  
17 lien shall be used to recoup any overpayments incurred pursuant  
18 to this section. Notwithstanding any other law, the lien shall not  
19 be enforceable by the sale of the secured property by the county.  
20 The lien of the county shall be paid upon the sale of the property.

21 The department shall define good faith effort in regulation.

22 SEC. 11. Section 11260 of the Welfare and Institutions Code  
23 is repealed.

24 SEC. 12. Section 11322.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code  
25 is amended to read:

26 11322.5. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to do each of the  
27 following:

28 (1) Maximize the ability of CalWORKs recipients to benefit  
29 from the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), including  
30 retroactive EITC credits and the Advance EITC, take advantage  
31 of the earned-income disregard to increase their CalFresh Program  
32 benefits, and accumulate credit toward future social security  
33 income.

34 (2) Educate and empower all CalWORKs participants who  
35 receive the federal EITC to save or invest part or all of their credits  
36 in instruments such as individual development accounts, 401(k)  
37 plans, 403(b) plans, IRAs, 457 plans, Coverdell ESA plans, or 529  
38 plans, and to take advantage of the federal Assets for Independence  
39 program and other matching funds, tools, and training available  
40 from public or private sources, in order to build their assets.

1 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that counties encourage  
2 CalWORKs recipients to participate in activities that will maximize  
3 their receipt of the EITC. To this end, counties may do all of the  
4 following:

5 (1) Structure welfare-to-work activities pursuant to subdivisions  
6 (a) to (j), inclusive, of Section 11322.6 to give recipients the option  
7 of maximizing the portion of their CalWORKs benefits that meets  
8 the definition of “earned income” in Section 32(c)(2) of the Internal  
9 Revenue Code.

10 (2) Inform CalWORKs recipients of each of the following:

11 (A) That earned income, either previous or future, may make  
12 them eligible for the federal EITC, including retroactive EITC  
13 credits and the Advance EITC, increase their CalFresh Program  
14 benefits, and accumulate credit toward future social security  
15 income.

16 (B) That recipients, as part of their welfare-to-work plans, have  
17 the option of engaging in subsidized employment and grant-based  
18 on-the-job training, as specified in Section 11322.6, and that  
19 participating in these activities will increase their earned income  
20 to the extent that they meet the requirements of federal law.

21 (C) That receipt of the federal EITC does not affect their  
22 CalWORKs grant and is additional tax-free income for them.

23 (D) That a CalWORKs recipient who receives the federal EITC  
24 may invest these funds in an individual development account,  
25 401(k) plan, 403(b) plan, IRA, 457 plan, 529 college savings plan,  
26 or Coverdell ESA, and that investments in these accounts will not  
27 make the recipient ineligible for CalWORKs benefits or reduce  
28 the recipient’s CalWORKs benefits.

29 (3) At each regular eligibility redetermination, the county shall  
30 ask a recipient whether the recipient is eligible for and takes  
31 advantage of the EITC. If the recipient may be eligible and does  
32 not participate, the county shall give the recipient the federal EITC  
33 form and encourage and assist the recipient to take advantage of  
34 it.

35 SEC. 13. Section 11375 of the Welfare and Institutions Code  
36 is amended to read:

37 11375. The following shall apply to any child or nonminor in  
38 receipt of state-funded Kin-GAP benefits:

39 (a) He or she is eligible to request and receive independent living  
40 services pursuant to Section 10609.3.

1 (b) He or she may retain cash savings, not to exceed ten  
2 thousand dollars (\$10,000), including interest, in addition to any  
3 other property accumulated pursuant to former Section 11257 or  
4 Section 11257.5.

5 (c) He or she shall have earned income disregarded pursuant to  
6 Section 11008.15.

7 SEC. 14. Section 11450 of the Welfare and Institutions Code,  
8 as added by Section 4 of Chapter 632 of the Statutes of 2014, is  
9 amended to read:

10 11450. (a) (1) (A) Aid shall be paid for each needy family,  
11 which shall include all eligible brothers and sisters of each eligible  
12 applicant or recipient child and the parents of the children, but  
13 shall not include unborn children, or recipients of aid under Chapter  
14 3 (commencing with Section 12000), qualified for aid under this  
15 chapter. In determining the amount of aid paid, and notwithstanding  
16 the minimum basic standards of adequate care specified in Section  
17 11452, the family’s income, exclusive of any amounts considered  
18 exempt as income or paid pursuant to subdivision (e) or Section  
19 11453.1, determined for the prospective semiannual period  
20 pursuant to Sections 11265.1, 11265.2, and 11265.3, and then  
21 calculated pursuant to Section 11451.5, shall be deducted from  
22 the sum specified in the following table, as adjusted for  
23 cost-of-living increases pursuant to Section 11453 and paragraph  
24 (2). In no case shall the amount of aid paid for each month exceed  
25 the sum specified in the following table, as adjusted for  
26 cost-of-living increases pursuant to Section 11453 and paragraph  
27 (2), plus any special needs, as specified in subdivisions (c), (e),  
28 and (f):

Number of eligible needy persons in the same home	Maximum aid
1.....	\$ 326
2.....	535
3.....	663
4.....	788
5.....	899
6.....	1,010
7.....	1,109

1	Number of	
2	eligible needy	
3	persons in	Maximum
4	the same home	aid
5	8.....	1,209
6	9.....	1,306
7	10 or more.....	1,403

8  
9 (B) If, when, and during those times that the United States  
10 government increases or decreases its contributions in assistance  
11 of needy children in this state above or below the amount paid on  
12 July 1, 1972, the amounts specified in the above table shall be  
13 increased or decreased by an amount equal to that increase or  
14 decrease by the United States government, provided that no  
15 increase or decrease shall be subject to subsequent adjustment  
16 pursuant to Section 11453.

17 (2) The sums specified in paragraph (1) shall not be adjusted  
18 for cost of living for the 1990–91, 1991–92, 1992–93, 1993–94,  
19 1994–95, 1995–96, 1996–97, and 1997–98 fiscal years, and through  
20 October 31, 1998, nor shall that amount be included in the base  
21 for calculating any cost-of-living increases for any fiscal year  
22 thereafter. Elimination of the cost-of-living adjustment pursuant  
23 to this paragraph shall satisfy the requirements of former Section  
24 11453.05, and no further reduction shall be made pursuant to that  
25 section.

26 (b) (1) When the family does not include a needy child qualified  
27 for aid under this chapter, aid shall be paid to a pregnant child who  
28 is 18 years of age or younger at any time after verification of  
29 pregnancy, in the amount that would otherwise be paid to one  
30 person, as specified in subdivision (a), if the child and her child,  
31 if born, would have qualified for aid under this chapter. Verification  
32 of pregnancy shall be required as a condition of eligibility for aid  
33 under this subdivision.

34 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), when the family does not  
35 include a needy child qualified for aid under this chapter, aid shall  
36 be paid to a pregnant woman for the month in which the birth is  
37 anticipated and for the six-month period immediately prior to the  
38 month in which the birth is anticipated, in the amount that would  
39 otherwise be paid to one person, as specified in subdivision (a), if  
40 the woman and child, if born, would have qualified for aid under

1 this chapter. Verification of pregnancy shall be required as a  
2 condition of eligibility for aid under this subdivision.

3 (3) Paragraph (1) shall apply only when the Cal-Learn Program  
4 is operative.

5 (c) The amount of forty-seven dollars (\$47) per month shall be  
6 paid to pregnant women qualified for aid under subdivision (a) or  
7 (b) to meet special needs resulting from pregnancy if the woman  
8 and child, if born, would have qualified for aid under this chapter.  
9 County welfare departments shall refer all recipients of aid under  
10 this subdivision to a local provider of the Women, Infants, and  
11 Children program. If that payment to pregnant women qualified  
12 for aid under subdivision (a) is considered income under federal  
13 law in the first five months of pregnancy, payments under this  
14 subdivision shall not apply to persons eligible under subdivision  
15 (a), except for the month in which birth is anticipated and for the  
16 three-month period immediately prior to the month in which  
17 delivery is anticipated, if the woman and child, if born, would have  
18 qualified for aid under this chapter.

19 (d) For children receiving AFDC-FC under this chapter, there  
20 shall be paid, exclusive of any amount considered exempt as  
21 income, an amount of aid each month that, when added to the  
22 child's income, is equal to the rate specified in Section 11460,  
23 11461, 11462, 11462.1, or 11463. In addition, the child shall be  
24 eligible for special needs, as specified in departmental regulations.

25 (e) In addition to the amounts payable under subdivision (a)  
26 and Section 11453.1, a family shall be entitled to receive an  
27 allowance for recurring special needs not common to a majority  
28 of recipients. These recurring special needs shall include, but not  
29 be limited to, special diets upon the recommendation of a physician  
30 for circumstances other than pregnancy, and unusual costs of  
31 transportation, laundry, housekeeping services, telephone, and  
32 utilities. The recurring special needs allowance for each family  
33 per month shall not exceed that amount resulting from multiplying  
34 the sum of ten dollars (\$10) by the number of recipients in the  
35 family who are eligible for assistance.

36 (f) After a family has used all available liquid resources, both  
37 exempt and nonexempt, in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100),  
38 the family shall also be entitled to receive an allowance for  
39 nonrecurring special needs.

1 (1) An allowance for nonrecurring special needs shall be granted  
2 for replacement of clothing and household equipment and for  
3 emergency housing needs other than those needs addressed by  
4 paragraph (2). These needs shall be caused by sudden and unusual  
5 circumstances beyond the control of the needy family. The  
6 department shall establish the allowance for each of the  
7 nonrecurring special needs items. The sum of all nonrecurring  
8 special needs provided by this subdivision shall not exceed six  
9 hundred dollars (\$600) per event.

10 (2) (A) Homeless assistance is available to a homeless family  
11 seeking shelter when the family is eligible for aid under this  
12 chapter. Homeless assistance for temporary shelter is also available  
13 to homeless families that are apparently eligible for aid under this  
14 chapter. Apparent eligibility exists when evidence presented by  
15 the applicant, or that is otherwise available to the county welfare  
16 department, and the information provided on the application  
17 documents indicate that there would be eligibility for aid under  
18 this chapter if the evidence and information were verified.  
19 However, an alien applicant who does not provide verification of  
20 his or her eligible alien status, or a woman with no eligible children  
21 who does not provide medical verification of pregnancy, is not  
22 apparently eligible for purposes of this section.

23 (B) A family is considered homeless, for the purpose of this  
24 section, when the family lacks a fixed and regular nighttime  
25 residence; or the family has a primary nighttime residence that is  
26 a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to  
27 provide temporary living accommodations; or the family is residing  
28 in a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as,  
29 a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. A family is  
30 also considered homeless for the purpose of this section if the  
31 family has received a notice to pay rent or quit. The family shall  
32 demonstrate that the eviction is the result of a verified financial  
33 hardship as a result of extraordinary circumstances beyond their  
34 control, and not other lease or rental violations, and that the family  
35 is experiencing a financial crisis that could result in homelessness  
36 if preventative assistance is not provided.

37 (C) (i) A nonrecurring special needs benefit of sixty-five dollars  
38 (\$65) a day shall be available to families of up to four members  
39 for the costs of temporary shelter, subject to the requirements of  
40 this paragraph. The fifth and additional members of the family

1 shall each receive fifteen dollars (\$15) per day, up to a daily  
2 maximum of one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125). County  
3 welfare departments may increase the daily amount available for  
4 temporary shelter as necessary to secure the additional bedspace  
5 needed by the family.

6 (ii) This special needs benefit shall be granted or denied  
7 immediately upon the family’s application for homeless assistance,  
8 and benefits shall be available for up to three working days. The  
9 county welfare department shall verify the family’s homelessness  
10 within the first three working days and if the family meets the  
11 criteria of questionable homelessness established by the  
12 department, the county welfare department shall refer the family  
13 to its early fraud prevention and detection unit, if the county has  
14 such a unit, for assistance in the verification of homelessness within  
15 this period.

16 (iii) After homelessness has been verified, the three-day limit  
17 shall be extended for a period of ~~time which~~, *time, which* when  
18 added to the initial benefits provided, does not exceed a total of  
19 16 calendar days. This extension of benefits shall be done in  
20 increments of one week and shall be based upon searching for  
21 permanent ~~housing~~ *housing*, which shall be documented on a  
22 housing search form, good cause, or other circumstances defined  
23 by the department. Documentation of a housing search shall be  
24 required for the initial extension of benefits beyond the three-day  
25 limit and on a weekly basis thereafter as long as the family is  
26 receiving temporary shelter benefits. Good cause shall include,  
27 but is not limited to, situations in which the county welfare  
28 department has determined that the family, to the extent it is  
29 capable, has made a good faith but unsuccessful effort to secure  
30 permanent housing while receiving temporary shelter benefits.

31 (D) (i) A nonrecurring special needs benefit for permanent  
32 housing assistance is available to pay for last month’s rent and  
33 security deposits when these payments are reasonable conditions  
34 of securing a residence, or to pay for up to two months of rent  
35 arrearages, when these payments are a reasonable condition of  
36 preventing eviction.

37 (ii) The last month’s rent or monthly arrearage portion of the  
38 payment (I) shall not exceed 80 percent of the family’s total  
39 monthly household income without the value of CalFresh benefits  
40 or special needs benefit for a family of that size and (II) shall only

1 be made to families that have found permanent housing costing  
2 no more than 80 percent of the family's total monthly household  
3 income without the value of CalFresh benefits or special needs  
4 benefit for a family of that size.

5 (iii) However, if the county welfare department determines that  
6 a family intends to reside with individuals who will be sharing  
7 housing costs, the county welfare department shall, in appropriate  
8 circumstances, set aside the condition specified in subclause (II)  
9 of clause (ii).

10 (E) The nonrecurring special needs benefit for permanent  
11 housing assistance is also available to cover the standard costs of  
12 deposits for utilities ~~which~~ *that* are necessary for the health and  
13 safety of the family.

14 (F) A payment for or denial of permanent housing assistance  
15 shall be issued no later than one working day from the time that a  
16 family presents evidence of the availability of permanent housing.  
17 If an applicant family provides evidence of the availability of  
18 permanent housing before the county welfare department has  
19 established eligibility for aid under this chapter, the county welfare  
20 department shall complete the eligibility determination so that the  
21 denial of or payment for permanent housing assistance is issued  
22 within one working day from the submission of evidence of the  
23 availability of permanent housing, unless the family has failed to  
24 provide all of the verification necessary to establish eligibility for  
25 aid under this chapter.

26 (G) (i) Except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii), eligibility  
27 for the temporary shelter assistance and the permanent housing  
28 assistance pursuant to this paragraph shall be limited to one period  
29 of up to 16 consecutive calendar days of temporary assistance and  
30 one payment of permanent assistance. Any family that includes a  
31 parent or nonparent caretaker relative living in the home who has  
32 previously received temporary or permanent homeless assistance  
33 at any time on behalf of an eligible child shall not be eligible for  
34 further homeless assistance. Any person who applies for homeless  
35 assistance benefits shall be informed that the temporary shelter  
36 benefit of up to 16 consecutive days is available only once in a  
37 lifetime, with certain exceptions, and that a break in the consecutive  
38 use of the benefit constitutes permanent exhaustion of the  
39 temporary benefit.

1 (ii) A family that becomes homeless as a direct and primary  
2 result of a state or federally declared natural disaster shall be  
3 eligible for temporary and permanent homeless assistance.

4 (iii) A family shall be eligible for temporary and permanent  
5 homeless assistance when homelessness is a direct result of  
6 domestic violence by a spouse, partner, or roommate; physical or  
7 mental illness that is medically verified that shall not include a  
8 diagnosis of alcoholism, drug addiction, or psychological stress;  
9 or, the uninhabitability of the former residence caused by sudden  
10 and unusual circumstances beyond the control of the family  
11 including natural catastrophe, fire, or condemnation. These  
12 circumstances shall be verified by a third-party governmental or  
13 private health and human services agency, except that domestic  
14 violence may also be verified by a sworn statement by the victim,  
15 as provided under Section 11495.25. Homeless assistance payments  
16 based on these specific circumstances may not be received more  
17 often than once in any 12-month period. In addition, if the domestic  
18 violence is verified by a sworn statement by the victim, the  
19 homeless assistance payments shall be limited to two periods of  
20 not more than 16 consecutive calendar days of temporary assistance  
21 and two payments of permanent assistance. A county may require  
22 that a recipient of homeless assistance benefits who qualifies under  
23 this paragraph for a second time in a 24-month period participate  
24 in a homelessness avoidance case plan as a condition of eligibility  
25 for homeless assistance benefits. The county welfare department  
26 shall immediately inform recipients who verify domestic violence  
27 by a sworn statement of the availability of domestic violence  
28 counseling and services, and refer those recipients to services upon  
29 request.

30 (iv) If a county requires a recipient who verifies domestic  
31 violence by a sworn statement to participate in a homelessness  
32 avoidance case plan pursuant to clause (iii), the plan shall include  
33 the provision of domestic violence services, if appropriate.

34 (v) If a recipient seeking homeless assistance based on domestic  
35 violence pursuant to clause (iii) has previously received homeless  
36 avoidance services based on domestic violence, the county shall  
37 review whether services were offered to the recipient and consider  
38 what additional services would assist the recipient in leaving the  
39 domestic violence situation.

1 (vi) The county welfare department shall report necessary data  
2 to the department through a statewide homeless assistance payment  
3 indicator system, as requested by the department, regarding all  
4 recipients of aid under this paragraph.

5 (H) The county welfare departments, and all other entities  
6 participating in the costs of the CalWORKs program, have the  
7 right in their share to any refunds resulting from payment of the  
8 permanent housing. However, if an emergency requires the family  
9 to move within the 12-month period specified in subparagraph  
10 (G), the family shall be allowed to use any refunds received from  
11 its deposits to meet the costs of moving to another residence.

12 (I) Payments to providers for temporary shelter and permanent  
13 housing and utilities shall be made on behalf of families requesting  
14 these payments.

15 (J) The daily amount for the temporary shelter special needs  
16 benefit for homeless assistance may be increased if authorized by  
17 the current year's Budget Act by specifying a different daily  
18 allowance and appropriating the funds therefor.

19 (K) No payment shall be made pursuant to this paragraph unless  
20 the provider of housing is a commercial establishment, shelter, or  
21 person in the business of renting properties who has a history of  
22 renting properties.

23 (g) The department shall establish rules and regulations ensuring  
24 the uniform statewide application of this section.

25 (h) The department shall notify all applicants and recipients of  
26 aid through the standardized application form that these benefits  
27 are available and shall provide an opportunity for recipients to  
28 apply for the funds quickly and efficiently.

29 (i) (1) Except for the purposes of Section 15200, the amounts  
30 payable to recipients pursuant to Section 11453.1 shall not  
31 constitute part of the payment schedule set forth in subdivision  
32 (a).

33 (2) The amounts payable to recipients pursuant to Section  
34 11453.1 shall not constitute income to recipients of aid under this  
35 section.

36 (j) For children receiving Kin-GAP pursuant to Article 4.5  
37 (commencing with Section 11360) or Article 4.7 (commencing  
38 with Section 11385) there shall be paid, exclusive of any amount  
39 considered exempt as income, an amount of aid each month, which,

1 when added to the child’s income, is equal to the rate specified in  
 2 Sections 11364 and 11387.

3 (k) (1) A county shall implement the semiannual reporting  
 4 requirements in accordance with Chapter 501 of the Statutes of  
 5 2011.

6 (2) Upon completion of the implementation described in  
 7 paragraph (1), each county shall provide a certificate to the director  
 8 certifying that semiannual reporting has been implemented in the  
 9 county.

10 (3) Upon filing the certificate described in paragraph (2), a  
 11 county shall comply with the semiannual reporting provisions of  
 12 this section.

13 SEC. 15. Section 11450.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code  
 14 is amended to read:

15 11450.5. For purposes of computing and paying aid grants  
 16 under this chapter, the director shall adopt regulations establishing  
 17 a budgeting system consistent with Sections 11265.1, 11265.2,  
 18 and 11265.3. ~~Nothing in this~~ *This section, or* Sections 11004 and  
 19 11450, or any other provision of this code, shall *not* be interpreted  
 20 as ~~prohibiting~~ *to prohibit* the establishment of, or otherwise  
 21 restricting the operation of, any budgeting system adopted by the  
 22 director.

23 SEC. 16. Section 14140 of the Welfare and Institutions Code  
 24 is amended to read:

25 14140. The following definitions shall apply to the provisions  
 26 of this article:

27 (a) “Net worth” means:

28 (1) Personal property, which consists of cash, savings accounts,  
 29 securities, and similar items; notes, ~~mortgages~~ *mortgages*, and  
 30 deeds of trust; the cash surrender value of life insurance on the life  
 31 of the applicant or beneficiary, on the life of the spouse or any  
 32 member of the family, except as provided in Section 11158; motor  
 33 vehicles, except one ~~which~~ *that* meets the transportation needs of  
 34 the person or family; *and* any other property or equity other than  
 35 real estate.

36 (2) Real property, including any interest in land of more than  
 37 nominal interest ~~which~~ *that* does not constitute the home of the  
 38 applicant for aid under this chapter. The home of the applicant  
 39 shall be exempt from consideration as net worth under this section

1 to the extent of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in assessed  
2 valuation, as assessed by the county assessor.

3 (3) “Income” ~~which~~ *that* consists of the sum of adjusted gross  
4 income as used for purposes of the Federal Income Tax Law.

5 (b) “Family unit” means:

6 (1) In the case of an unmarried patient under 21 years of age  
7 living with his parent or parents, the patient and his parents.

8 (2) In the case of a married patient under 21 years of age, the  
9 patient and his spouse.

10 (3) In the case of a patient over 21, the patient, and if married,  
11 the patient’s wife.

12 SEC. 17. Section 18923 of the Welfare and Institutions Code  
13 is amended to read:

14 18923. (a) The State Department of Social Services shall  
15 submit a request to the United States Department of Agriculture  
16 for a waiver to permit a CalFresh household to retain funds in the  
17 restricted savings account as specified in subdivision (a) of former  
18 Section 11155.2 and as accumulated while participating in the Aid  
19 to Families with Dependent Children program. The participation  
20 requirements for this specific savings account as specified in  
21 subdivision (a) of former Section 11155.2 shall apply to CalFresh.  
22 Penalties for nonqualifying withdrawal of these funds shall result  
23 in a calculation of a period of ineligibility for all persons in the  
24 CalFresh household, to be determined by dividing the balance in  
25 the account immediately prior to the withdrawal by the CalFresh  
26 allotment to which the household is entitled. The resulting whole  
27 number shall be the number of months of ineligibility. The period  
28 of ineligibility may be reduced when the divisor, which is the  
29 CalFresh allotment, increases as a result of a cost-of-living  
30 adjustment.

31 (b) The director may waive, with federal approval, the  
32 enforcement of specific federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance  
33 Program requirements, regulations, and standards necessary to  
34 implement this provision.

35 SEC. 18. No appropriation pursuant to Section 15200 of  
36 Welfare and Institutions Code shall be made for the purposes of  
37 this act.

38 SEC. 19. If the Commission on State Mandates determines  
39 that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement  
40 to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made

- 1 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
- 2 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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