

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 16, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2057

Introduced by Assembly Member Mark Stone

February 17, 2016

An act to amend Section ~~18911~~ 18904.1 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to CalFresh.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2057, as amended, Mark Stone. CalFresh: application information.

Existing law provides for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known in California as CalFresh, under which supplemental nutrition assistance benefits allocated to the state by the federal government are distributed to eligible individuals by each county. Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services to develop specified written information relating to application for CalFresh, and requires a county welfare department to make this information available to an applicant and, upon request, to emergency food programs, among other entities, as specified: *administer the CalFresh program, as specified*. Existing law also requires a county welfare department to compile a list of emergency food providers, and to make other information available to applicants, as specified: *requires the director to maintain methods for over-the-counter issuance that guarantee program accessibility in all cases when a household has been found to be in immediate need of food assistance or when a household has been determined to be eligible for the replacement of a previous issuance of CalFresh benefits*.

This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes in these provisions:

This bill would require the department and county officials to act pursuant to all federal authority to ensure that the replacement of a previous issuance of CalFresh benefits is made available as expeditiously as possible for all eligible recipients, as specified. The bill would also authorize, if a recipient is eligible for a replacement of a previous issuance, the benefit to be issued by the county human services agency in the county where the recipient currently resides or in the county where the recipient received a previous issuance. The bill would require, if a recipient is eligible for a replacement of a previous issuance because he or she is a victim of domestic violence, the replacement benefit to be issued in a manner that does not allow for any information about the replacement or its request to be accessible to the person whom the recipient is fleeing. By imposing a higher level of service on county employees, the 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: ~~no~~-yes.
 State-mandated local program: ~~no~~-yes.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 18904.1 of the Welfare and Institutions
- 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 18904.1. (a) The director, to the extent permitted by federal
- 4 law, shall establish methods for CalFresh benefit issuance in all
- 5 counties—~~which~~ that guarantee to low-income households the
- 6 health-vital nutritional benefits available under this chapter and to
- 7 achieve the most efficient system for program administration so
- 8 as to minimize administrative costs.
- 9 (b) The director shall maintain methods for over-the-counter
- 10 and mail issuance of CalFresh benefits in a county until issuance
- 11 of CalFresh benefits by electronic benefits transfer for all CalFresh

1 recipients in the county has been implemented pursuant to Chapter
2 3 (commencing with Section 10065) of Part 1.

3 (c) ~~Until issuance of CalFresh benefits by electronic benefits~~
4 ~~transfer has been implemented in a county for all CalFresh~~
5 ~~recipients, the director shall maintain, in the county, County human~~
6 ~~services agencies shall maintain~~ methods for over-the-counter
7 issuance that guarantee program accessibility in all cases ~~where~~
8 ~~when~~ a household has been found to be in immediate need of food
9 assistance or ~~where when~~ a household has been determined to be
10 eligible for the replacement of a previous issuance.

11 (d) *The department and county officials shall act pursuant to*
12 *all federal authority to ensure that the replacement of a previous*
13 *issuance of CalFresh benefits is made available as expeditiously*
14 *as possible for all eligible recipients, using the methods established*
15 *pursuant to subdivision (c).*

16 (e) (1) *If a recipient is eligible for a replacement of a previous*
17 *issuance, the benefit may be issued by the county human services*
18 *agency in the county where the recipient currently resides or in*
19 *the county where the recipient received a previous issuance.*

20 (2) *If a recipient is eligible for a replacement of a previous*
21 *issuance because he or she is a victim of domestic violence, the*
22 *replacement benefit shall be issued in a manner that does not allow*
23 *any information about the replacement or its request to be*
24 *accessible to the person from whom the recipient is fleeing.*

25 SEC. 2. *If the Commission on State Mandates determines that*
26 *this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to*
27 *local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made*
28 *pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division*
29 *4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.*

30 SECTION 1. ~~Section 18911 of the Welfare and Institutions~~
31 ~~Code is amended to read:~~

32 18911. (a) ~~An application and an authorization for participation~~
33 ~~in CalFresh shall be processed within a period of not more than~~
34 ~~30 days from the date of application.~~

35 (b) ~~The department shall develop written information that~~
36 ~~describes the eligibility and verification requirements for expedited~~
37 ~~service, the process for applying for those benefits, and the~~
38 ~~availability of assistance in filling out the forms and gathering~~
39 ~~needed documentation.~~

- 1 ~~(e) A county welfare department shall make the material~~
- 2 ~~developed pursuant to subdivision (b) available to an applicant at~~
- 3 ~~the time the applicant initially seeks CalFresh benefits.~~
- 4 ~~(d) A county welfare department shall, upon request, make~~
- 5 ~~available the information developed pursuant to subdivision (b)~~
- 6 ~~to community action agencies, legal services offices, emergency~~
- 7 ~~food programs, and other programs.~~
- 8 ~~(e) A county welfare department shall compile a list of~~
- 9 ~~emergency food providers in the area served by the local CalFresh~~
- 10 ~~office. The list shall be updated, based on information from the~~
- 11 ~~food providers. The list shall be made available upon request, and,~~
- 12 ~~where needed, may be used to refer individuals to emergency food~~
- 13 ~~sites that may be able to provide assistance.~~
- 14 ~~(f) A county welfare department shall make available to~~
- 15 ~~CalFresh applicants, upon request, nonpromotional information~~
- 16 ~~that contains addresses and phone numbers of local legal services~~
- 17 ~~and welfare rights organizations.~~