

Introduced by Senator PanFebruary 23, 2015

An act to amend Section 11052.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 312, as introduced, Pan. Public assistance: personal interviews.

Existing law provides for protection, care, and assistance for people of the state by providing appropriate aid and services to the needy and distressed. Programs established for this purpose include the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids program (CalWORKs), which provides cash assistance and other social services to needy families, using federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant program, state, and county funds. Existing law prohibits an applicant from being granted public assistance under CalWORKs until he or she is personally interviewed by the county welfare department or state hospital staff.

This bill would authorize the county welfare department to conduct this personal interview telephonically or through electronic means if the county welfare department determines that a personal interview by telephone or electronic means would be more efficient. The bill would authorize the State Department of Social Services to implement the bill by means of all-county letters or similar instructions. The bill would also delete an obsolete cross-reference.

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

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 County Option of Efficient Interviewing of CalWORKs Applicants
 3 Act of 2015.

4 SEC. 2. Section 11052.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code
 5 is amended to read:

6 11052.5. ~~No~~ *(a) An applicant shall not be granted public*
 7 *assistance under Chapters Chapter 2 (commencing with Section*
 8 *11200) and 5 (commencing with Section 13000) of this part until*
 9 *he or she is first personally interviewed by the office of the county*
 10 *welfare department or state staff for patients in state hospitals. The*
 11 *personal interview shall be conducted promptly following the*
 12 *application for assistance. The county welfare department may*
 13 *conduct the personal interview by telephone or through electronic*
 14 *means if the county welfare department determines that a personal*
 15 *interview by telephone or electronic means will be more efficient.*
 16 *If an applicant is incapable of acting in his or her own behalf, the*
 17 *county welfare department shall verify this fact by personal contact*
 18 *with the applicant before aid is authorized. As used in this section,*
 19 *the term public assistance does not include health care as provided*
 20 *by Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 14000).*

21 ~~The~~
 22 *(b) The interview conducted pursuant to this section shall occur*
 23 *within seven days after the time of application unless there are*
 24 *extenuating circumstances that justify further delay.*

25 SEC. 3. Notwithstanding the rulemaking provisions of the
 26 Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with
 27 Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government
 28 Code), the State Department of Social Services may implement
 29 this act through an all-county letter or similar instruction from the
 30 director. The all-county letter or similar instruction shall be issued
 31 no later than April 1, 2016.