

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 23, 2015

SENATE BILL

No. 312

Introduced by Senator Pan

February 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 amended, 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~~ *human services agency* or state hospital staff.

This bill would authorize the county ~~welfare department~~ *human services agency or state hospital staff* 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.~~ *means. The bill would require a face-to-face interview to be conducted if requested by an applicant or recipient. By imposing a higher level of service on county human services agencies administering the CalWORKs program, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.* 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.

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: ~~no~~-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 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. (a) An applicant shall not be granted public assistance
 7 under Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11200) until he or she
 8 is first personally interviewed by the office of the county ~~welfare~~
 9 ~~department~~ *human services agency* or state staff for patients in
 10 state hospitals. The personal interview shall be conducted promptly
 11 following the application for ~~assistance~~. ~~The county welfare~~
 12 ~~department~~ *assistance and may conduct the personal interview be*
 13 *conducted* by telephone or through electronic ~~means if the county~~
 14 ~~welfare department determines that a personal interview by~~
 15 ~~telephone or electronic means will be more efficient.~~ *means*. If an
 16 applicant is incapable of acting in his or her own behalf, the county
 17 ~~welfare department~~ *human services agency* shall verify this fact
 18 by personal contact with the applicant before aid is authorized. As
 19 used in this section, the term public assistance does not include
 20 health care as provided by Chapter 7 (commencing with Section
 21 14000).
 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.

1 (c) *A face-to-face interview shall be conducted if requested by*
2 *an applicant or recipient.*

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

10 SEC. 4. *If the Commission on State Mandates determines that*
11 *this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to*
12 *local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made*
13 *pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division*
14 *4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.*