

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 25, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 25, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 13, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 28, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 2, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 963

Introduced by Assembly Member Ammiano

February 26, 2009

An act to add Section 14012.6 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 963, as amended, Ammiano. Public social services: renewal and recertification of eligibility.

Existing law creates various programs to provide health care services to persons who have limited incomes and meet various eligibility requirements, including, but not limited to, the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, and under which qualified low-income individuals receive health care benefits. Existing law also provides for the Food Stamp Program, under which food stamps are allocated by each county in accordance with federal requirements, and the CalWORKs program, under which each county provides cash assistance and other benefits to qualified low-income families and individuals who meet specified eligibility criteria. Under existing law, the Food Stamp Program and the

CalWORKs program are administered at the state level by the State Department of Social Services.

Existing law requires recipients of Medi-Cal, Food Stamp, and CalWORKs benefits to, on a specified basis, renew or recertify their eligibility.

This bill would require the State Department of Health Care Services, in consultation with counties, the State Department of Social Services, representatives of the Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS) consortia, consumers, and other affected stakeholder groups to conduct a stakeholder planning workgroup to develop a joint renewal and recertification form to be used by individuals and families who are recipients of one or more of the Medi-Cal, Food Stamp, or CalWORKs benefit programs. This bill would require the stakeholder planning workgroup to develop the renewal and recertification form, and any related policies and procedures, to be considered for adoption by the department and other entities, *and to submit this information to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature by January 31, 2012.*

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. Section 14012.6 is added to the Welfare and
- 2 Institutions Code, to read:
- 3 14012.6. (a) The department, in consultation with counties,
- 4 the State Department of Social Services, representatives of the
- 5 Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS) consortia,
- 6 consumers, and other affected stakeholder groups, shall conduct
- 7 a stakeholder planning workgroup to develop a joint renewal and
- 8 recertification form to be used by individuals and families who
- 9 are recipients of one or more of the Medi-Cal, Food Stamp, or
- 10 CalWORKs benefits programs. The workgroup shall include
- 11 consumer advocates with expertise in each of the Medi-Cal, Food
- 12 Stamp, and CalWORKs programs.
- 13 (b) The stakeholder planning workgroup shall develop the joint
- 14 renewal and recertification form, and any related policies and
- 15 procedures, to be considered for adoption by the department, the
- 16 counties, the State Department of Social Services, and the SAWS

1 consortia. In developing the form, policies, and procedures the
2 stakeholder planning workgroup shall do all of the following:

3 (1) Determine which questions and documentation requests on
4 existing renewal and recertification forms are necessary and
5 eliminate any requests for information or documentation that are
6 duplicative.

7 (2) Develop the joint renewal and recertification form to allow
8 recipients to skip sections on the form if they are not enrolled in,
9 or do not want to be evaluated for, one or more of the benefit
10 programs.

11 (3) Develop the forms, policies, and procedures to be used for
12 both paper and electronic renewal and recertification.

13 (4) Maximize use of shared technology and information to
14 minimize burdens on recipients and county eligibility staff, and
15 assist families in a consumer friendly renewal and recertification
16 process.

17 (5) Align renewal and recertification dates for recipients without
18 requiring the recipients to lose any benefits earlier than they
19 otherwise would have in the initial alignment year.

20 (6) Establish appropriate procedures and safeguards for data
21 and information sharing pursuant to this section that meet the
22 confidentiality and privacy requirements of the Medi-Cal, Food
23 Stamp, and CalWORKs programs but do not require additional
24 consent from the recipients.

25 (7) Give priority to the program changes necessary to enable
26 the SAWS consortia to automate the renewal and recertification
27 procedure, maximize the use of available information, and
28 minimize manual workload.

29 (8) Ensure that recipients experience no disruption in coverage
30 or diminution of their rights under this chapter.

31 (9) Consider any additional modifications that could be made
32 to the renewal and recertification procedures to minimize burdens
33 on the recipients and encourage retention of Medi-Cal, Food Stamp,
34 and CalWORKs benefits. Additional modifications to be considered
35 shall include, but not be limited to, those permitted under federal
36 law, including those permitted through a waiver, such as electronic
37 and telephonic renewal methods, prepopulated forms, elimination
38 of interview requirements, and electronic verifications.

39 (10) Consider any changes that may be needed under federal
40 health reform, any guidance provided by the United States

1 Department of Agriculture, and any other changes that may be
2 needed in federal law or policy that would ensure a smooth
3 transition to the use of the joint renewal and recertification form.

4 (c) The department, in consultation with the State Department
5 of Social Services, shall obtain funding from private or public
6 sources to finance the stakeholder planning workgroup, except
7 that no General Fund moneys shall be used for ~~this~~ *that* purpose.

8 *(d) The department and the State Department of Social Services*
9 *shall submit the joint renewal and recertification form and related*
10 *policies and procedures developed by the workgroup to the*
11 *appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature by*
12 *January 31, 2012.*