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**GOVERNMENT CODE - GOV**

**TITLE 2. GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA [8000 - 22980]** ( Title 2 enacted by Stats. 1943, Ch. 134. )

**DIVISION 4. FISCAL AFFAIRS [16100 - 17700]** ( Division 4 added by Stats. 1945, Ch. 119. )

**PART 7. STATE-MANDATED LOCAL COSTS [17500 - 17630]** ( Part 7 added by Stats. 1984, Ch. 1459, Sec. 1. )

**CHAPTER 4. Identification and Payment of Costs Mandated by the State [17550 - 17617]** ( Chapter 4 added by Stats. 1984, Ch. 1459, Sec. 1. )

**ARTICLE 5. State Mandate Apportionments System [17615 - 17617]** ( Article 5 added by Stats. 1985, Ch. 1534, Sec. 4. )

**17615.** The Legislature finds and declares that the existing system for reimbursing local agencies and school districts for actual costs mandated by the state on an annual claim basis is time consuming, cumbersome, and expensive at both the local and state levels. The Controller must process voluminous claims with all claims subject to a desk audit and selected claims also subject to a field audit. Local agencies are required to maintain extensive documentation of all claims in anticipation of such an audit. The volume of these records is substantial and will continue to grow with no relief in sight as new programs are mandated. The cost to local agencies and school districts for filing claims, and for maintaining documentation and responding to the Controller's audits is substantial. The current administrative cost to both state and local governments represents a significant expenditure of public funds with no apparent benefit to the taxpayers.

It is the intent of the Legislature to streamline the reimbursement process for costs mandated by the state by creating a system of state mandate apportionments to fund the costs of certain programs mandated by the state.

(Added by Stats. 1985, Ch. 1534, Sec. 4. Effective October 2, 1985.)

**17615.1.** The commission shall establish a procedure for reviewing, upon request, mandated cost programs for which appropriations have been made by the Legislature for the 1982–83, 1983–84, and 1984–85 fiscal years, or any three consecutive fiscal years thereafter. At the request of the Department of Finance, the Controller, or any local agency or school district receiving reimbursement for the mandated program, the commission shall review the mandated cost program to determine whether the program should be included in the State Mandates Apportionment System. If the commission determines that the State Mandates Apportionment System would accurately reflect the costs of the state-mandated program, the commission shall direct the Controller to include the program in the State Mandates Apportionment System.

(Amended by Stats. 2004, Ch. 890, Sec. 28. Effective January 1, 2005.)

**17615.2.** (a) Notwithstanding Section 17561, after November 30, 1985, for those programs included in the State Mandates Apportionment System, after approval by the commission, there shall be disbursed by the Controller to each local agency and school district which has submitted a reimbursement claim for costs mandated by the state in the 1982–83, 1983–84, and the 1984–85 fiscal years, or any three consecutive fiscal years thereafter, an amount computed by averaging the approved reimbursement claims for this three-year period. The amount shall first be adjusted according to any changes in the deflator. The deflator shall be applied separately to each year's costs for the three years which comprise the base period. Funds for these purposes shall be available to the extent they are provided for in the Budget Act of 1985 and the Budget Act for any subsequent fiscal year thereafter.

For purposes of this article, "base period" means the three fiscal years immediately succeeding the commission's approval.

(b) When the Controller has made payment on claims prior to commission approval of the program for inclusion in the State Mandates Apportionment System, the payment shall be adjusted in the next apportionment to the amount which would have been subvended to the local agency or school district for that fiscal year had the State Mandates Apportionment System been in effect at the time of the initial payment.

(Amended by Stats. 1989, Ch. 589, Sec. 3.)

**17615.3.** Notwithstanding Section 17561, by November 30, 1986, and by November 30 of each year thereafter, for those programs included in the State Mandates Apportionment System, the Controller shall recalculate each allocation for each local agency and

school district for the 1985–86 fiscal year, by using the actual change in the deflator for that year. That recalculated allocation shall then be adjusted by the estimated change in the deflator for the 1986–87 fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, to establish the allocation amount for the 1986–87 fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter. Additionally, for programs approved by the commission for inclusion in the State Mandates Apportionment System on or after January 1, 1988, the allocation for each year succeeding the three-year base period shall be adjusted according to any changes in both the deflator and workload. The Controller shall then subvene that amount after adjusting it by any amount of overpayment or underpayment in the 1985–86 fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, due to a discrepancy between the actual change and the estimated change in the deflator or workload. Funds for these purposes shall be available to the extent they are provided for in the Budget Act of 1986 and the Budget Act for any subsequent fiscal year thereafter.

For purposes of this article, “workload” means, for school districts and county offices of education, changes in the average daily attendance; for community colleges, changes in the number of full-time equivalent students; for cities and counties, changes in the population within their boundaries; and for special districts, changes in the population of the county in which the largest percentage of the district’s population is located.

*(Amended by Stats. 1989, Ch. 589, Sec. 4.)*

**17615.4.** (a) When a new mandate imposes costs that are funded either by legislation or in local government claims bills, local agencies and school districts may file reimbursement claims as required by Section 17561, for a minimum of three years after the initial funding of the new mandate.

(b) After actual cost claims are submitted for three fiscal years against such a new mandate, the commission shall determine, upon request of the Controller or a local entity or school district receiving reimbursement for the program, whether the amount of the base year entitlement adjusted by changes in the deflator and workload accurately reflects the costs incurred by the local agency or school district. If the commission determines that the base year entitlement, as adjusted, does accurately reflect the costs of the program, the commission shall direct the Controller to include the program in the State Mandates Apportionment System.

(c) The Controller shall make recommendations to the commission and the commission shall consider the Controller’s recommendations for each new mandate submitted for inclusion in the State Mandates Apportionment System. All claims included in the State Mandates Apportionment System pursuant to this section are also subject to the audit provisions of Section 17616.

*(Amended by Stats. 2004, Ch. 890, Sec. 29. Effective January 1, 2005.)*

**17615.5.** (a) If any local agency or school district has an established base year entitlement which does not include costs for a particular mandate, that local agency or school district may submit reimbursement claims for a minimum of three consecutive years, adjusted pursuant to Section 17615.3 by changes in the deflator and workload, or entitlement claims covering a minimum of three consecutive years, after which time its base year entitlement may be adjusted by an amount necessary to fund the costs of that mandate.

(b) If any local agency or school district has no base year entitlement, but wishes to begin claiming costs of one or more of the mandates included in the State Mandates Apportionment System, that local agency or school district may submit reimbursement claims for a minimum of three consecutive years, or entitlement claims covering the preceding three consecutive years, which shall be adjusted pursuant to Sections 17615.2 and 17615.3 by changes in the deflator and workload, after which time a base year entitlement may be established in an amount necessary to fund the costs of the mandate or mandates.

*(Amended by Stats. 1989, Ch. 589, Sec. 6.)*

**17615.6.** If a local agency or school district realizes a decrease in the amount of costs incurred because a mandate is discontinued, or made permissive, the Controller shall determine the amount of the entitlement attributable to that mandate by determining the base year amount for that mandate for the local agency or school district plus the annual adjustments. This amount shall be subtracted from the annual subvention which would otherwise have been allocated to the local agency or school district.

*(Added by Stats. 1985, Ch. 1534, Sec. 4. Effective October 2, 1985.)*

**17615.7.** If a mandated program included in the State Mandates Apportionment System is modified or amended by the Legislature or by executive order, and the modification or amendment significantly affects the costs of the program, as determined by the commission, the program shall be removed from the State Mandate Apportionment System, and the payments reduced accordingly. Local entities or school districts may submit actual costs claims for a period of three years, after which the program may be considered for inclusion in the State Mandates Apportionment System, pursuant to the provisions of Section 17615.4.

*(Added by Stats. 1985, Ch. 1534, Sec. 4. Effective October 2, 1985.)*

**17615.8.** (a) The commission shall establish a procedure for reviewing, upon request, any apportionment or base year entitlement of a local agency or school district.

(b) Local agencies and school districts which request such a review shall maintain and provide those records and documentation as the commission or its designee determines are necessary for the commission or its designee to make the required determinations. With the exception of records required to verify base year entitlements, the records may not be used to adjust current or prior apportionments, but may be used to adjust future apportionments.

(c) If the commission determines that an apportionment or base year entitlement for funding costs mandated by the state does not accurately reflect the costs incurred by the local agency or school district for all mandates upon which that apportionment is based, the commission shall direct the Controller to adjust the apportionment accordingly. For the purposes of this section, an apportionment or a base year entitlement does not accurately reflect the costs incurred by a local agency or school district if it falls short of reimbursing, or overreimburses, that local agency's or school district's actual costs by 20 percent or by one thousand dollars (\$1,000), whichever is less.

(d) If the commission determines that an apportionment or base year entitlement for funding costs mandated by the state accurately reflects the costs incurred by the local agency or school district for all mandates upon which that apportionment is based, the commission may, in its discretion, direct the Controller to withhold, and, if so directed, the Controller shall withhold the costs of the commission's review from the next apportionment to the local agency or school district, if the commission review was requested by the local agency or school district.

*(Added by Stats. 1985, Ch. 1534, Sec. 4. Effective October 2, 1985.)*

**17615.9.** The commission shall periodically review programs funded under the State Mandate Apportionments System to evaluate the effectiveness or continued statewide need for each such mandate.

*(Added by Stats. 1985, Ch. 1534, Sec. 4. Effective October 2, 1985.)*

**17616.** The Controller shall have the authority to do either or both of the following:

(a) Audit the fiscal years comprising the base year entitlement no later than three years after the year in which the base year entitlement is established. The results of such audits shall be used to adjust the base year entitlements and any subsequent apportionments based on that entitlement, in addition to adjusting actual cost payments made for the base years audited.

(b) Verify that any local agency or school district receiving funds pursuant to this article is providing the reimbursed activities.

*(Amended by Stats. 2004, Ch. 890, Sec. 30. Effective January 1, 2005.)*

**17617.** The total amount due to each city, county, city and county, and special district, for which the state has determined that reimbursement is required under paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution, shall be appropriated for payment to these entities over a period of not more than 15 years, commencing with the Budget Act for the 2006–07 fiscal year and concluding with the Budget Act for the 2020–21 fiscal year. There shall be no appropriation for payment of reimbursement claims submitted pursuant to this section for the 2012–13 and 2013–14 fiscal years.

*(Amended by Stats. 2014, Ch. 28, Sec. 48. (SB 854) Effective June 20, 2014.)*