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AB-2277 CalWORKs: victims of abuse. (2021-2022)

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Date Published: 09/29/2022 02:00 PM

Assembly Bill No. 2277

CHAPTER 693

An act to amend Section 11495.15 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to CalWORKs.

[Approved by Governor September 28, 2022. Filed with Secretary of State September 28, 2022.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2277, Reyes. CalWORKs: victims of abuse.

Existing federal law provides for the allocation of federal funds through the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant program to eligible states. Existing law provides for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program under which, through a combination of state and county funds and federal funds received through the TANF program, each county provides cash assistance and other benefits to qualified low-income families. Existing law authorizes a county to waive a program requirement for a recipient who has been identified as a past or present victim of abuse when it has been determined that good cause exists.

This bill would instead require a county to waive a program requirement for a recipient who has been identified as a past or present victim of abuse when it has been determined that good cause exists. By imposing an additional duty on counties, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Existing law continuously appropriates moneys from the General Fund to defray a portion of county costs under the CalWORKs program.

This bill would instead provide that the continuous appropriation would not be made for purposes of implementing the bill.

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 the statutory provisions noted above.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: yes

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 11495.15 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

11495.15. A county shall waive a program requirement for a recipient who has been identified as a past or present victim of abuse when it has been determined that good cause exists pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (f) of Section 11320.3. Until implementation of the regulations required pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 11495.1, a county may utilize standards,

procedures, and protocols currently available, and shall identify them in its county plan. Waivers shall be reevaluated in accordance with other routine periodic reevaluations by the county.

SEC. 2. No appropriation pursuant to Section 15200 of the Welfare and Institutions Code shall be made for purposes of implementing this act.

SEC. 3. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.