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**AB-1457 Public social services: merit or civil service employee.** (2023-2024)

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Date Published: 10/02/2023 02:00 PM

**Assembly Bill No. 1457**

**CHAPTER 279**

An act to amend Section 10503 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services.

[ Approved by Governor September 30, 2023. Filed with Secretary of State September 30, 2023. ]

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

AB 1457, Ortega. Public social services: merit or civil service employee.

Existing law requires that any decisions governing eligibility for the Medi-Cal program, the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program, or the CalFresh program that, in the state, are made by a county pursuant to provisions relating to public social services be made exclusively by a merit or civil service employee of the county.

Existing law generally requires the federal and state laws and regulations governing the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (or CalFresh in the state) to also govern the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP). Existing law requires the delivery of nutrition benefits under CFAP to be identical to the delivery of CalFresh benefits, to the extent permissible under federal law.

Existing law generally requires the federal and state laws and regulations governing the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Program for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (SSI/SSP) program to also govern the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI).

Existing law sets forth various provisions relating to the implementation of the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program as a covered Medi-Cal benefit.

Existing law requires that the investigation of allegations of elder and dependent adult abuse under provisions relating to Adult Protective Services (APS), and the case management of elder and dependent adult abuse cases, be performed by county merit systems civil service employees.

This bill would add CFAP, CAPI, IHSS, and APS to the above-described list of programs for which any decisions governing eligibility that are made by a county would be made exclusively by a merit or civil service employee of the county.

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

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 10503 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

**10503.** Any decisions governing eligibility for any of the following programs that, in California, are made by a county pursuant to this division shall be made exclusively by a merit or civil service employee of the county:

- (a) The Medi-Cal program, as described in Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 14000) of Part 3.
- (b) The In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program, as described in Article 7 (commencing with Section 12300) of Chapter 3 of Part 3.
- (c) The California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program, as described in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11200) of Part 3.
- (d) The CalFresh program, as described in Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 18900) of Part 6.
- (e) The California Food Assistance Program (CFAP), as described in Chapter 10.1 (commencing with Section 18930) of Part 6.
- (f) The Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) pursuant to Chapter 10.3 (commencing with Section 18937) of Part 6.
- (g) The Adult Protective Services (APS) program, as described in Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 15750) of Part 3.