

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 5, 2013

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 28, 2013

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 11, 2013

SENATE BILL

No. 672

Introduced by Senator Leno

February 22, 2013

An act to add Section 18901.1 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to CalFresh.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 672, as amended, Leno. CalFresh: eligibility: guidelines.

Existing federal law provides for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), under which nutrition assistance benefits are allocated to each state by the federal government. Under existing state law, the CalFresh program, California's federal allocation is distributed to eligible individuals by each county. Existing law requires that the eligibility of households be determined to the extent permitted by federal law, and requires the State Department of Social Services to establish a program of categorical eligibility for CalFresh in accordance with federal law. Existing law requires each county welfare department to carry out the local administrative responsibilities of this program, subject to the supervision of the department and to rules and regulations adopted by the department.

This bill would require the department to issue guidance to simplify the verification of dependent care expense deductions necessary to determine eligibility for, or the benefit level of, CalFresh, ~~to the extent permitted by federal law~~. The bill would require that the guidance establish that dependent care expenses shall be considered verified upon

receipt of a self-certified statement of monthly *dependent care* expenses, unless federal law requires, or the county human services agency requests, additional documentation, as specified. *The bill would authorize the department to implement these provisions by all-county letters or similar instructions until regulations are adopted, and would require the department to adopt regulations on or before January 1, 2015.*

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. It is the intent of the Legislature to support an
2 increase in CalFresh benefits for low-income working families ~~by~~
3 ~~using state options, including the option provided in Section 273.2~~
4 ~~of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, to increase eligibility~~
5 ~~for families by simplifying the verification of their dependent care~~
6 ~~expenses.~~

7 SEC. 2. Section 18901.1 is added to the Welfare and
8 Institutions Code, to read:

9 18901.1. (a) The department shall issue guidance to simplify
10 the verification of dependent care expense deductions necessary
11 to determine *a household's* eligibility for, or the benefit level of,
12 CalFresh, ~~to the extent permitted by federal law.~~ The guidance
13 shall establish that dependent care expenses shall be considered
14 verified upon receipt of a self-certified statement of monthly
15 *dependent care* expenses, unless federal law or guidance requires
16 additional documentation.

17 (b) This section shall not preclude the county human services
18 agency from requesting additional documentation to verify a
19 dependent care expense deduction if the verification received is
20 questionable.

21 (c) *Notwithstanding the rulemaking provisions of the*
22 *Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with*
23 *Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government*
24 *Code), until regulations are adopted, the department may*
25 *implement this section through all-county letters or similar*
26 *instructions. The department shall adopt regulations implementing*
27 *this section on or before January 1, 2015.*

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