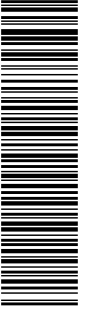


An act to amend Section 11203 of the Welfare and Institutions Code,  
relating to CalWORKs.

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

SECTION 1. Section 11203 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

11203. (a) During those times as the federal government provides funds for the care of a needy relative with whom a needy child or needy children are living, aid to the child or children for any month includes aid to meet the needs of that relative, if money payments are made with respect to the child or children for that month, and if the relative is not receiving aid under Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 12000) or 5.1 (commencing with Section 13000) of this part or Part A of Title XVI of the Social Security Act for that month. Needy relatives under this chapter include only natural or adoptive parents, the spouse of a natural or adoptive parent, and other needy caretaker relatives.

(b) (1) The parent or parents shall be considered living with the needy child or needy children for a period of up to six months, or for a time period as determined by the department, of the needy child's or children's absence from the family assistance unit, and the parent or parents shall be eligible for aid as specified in subdivision (a) of Section 11450 and childcare services under ~~Article 15.5 (commencing with Section 8350) of Chapter 2 of Part 6 of Division 1 of Title 1 of the Education Code, as that article read on May 1, 2021, Section 10370,~~ as well as services under this chapter, including services funded under Sections 15204.2 and 15204.8, and the special needs benefit specified in clause (i) of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (f) of Section 11450, if all of the following conditions are met:

~~(1)~~

(A) The child has been removed from the parent or parents and placed in out-of-home care.

~~(2)~~

(B) When the child was removed from the parent or parents, the family was receiving aid under this section.

~~(3)~~

(C) The county has determined that the provision of aid as specified in subdivision (a) of Section 11450 or the provision of childcare services under ~~Article 15.5 (commencing with Section 8350) of Chapter 2 of Part 6 of Division 1 of Title 1 of the Education Code, as that article read on May 1, 2021, Section 10370,~~ or the provision of services under this chapter, including services funded under Sections 15204.2 and 15204.8, and the special needs benefit specified in clause (i) of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (f) of Section 11450, is necessary for reunification.

(2) The provisions in this subdivision authorizing eligibility for aid, as specified in subdivision (a) of Section 11450, and childcare services under Section 10370, shall become operative on July 1, 2024, or when the Statewide Automated Welfare System can perform the necessary automation, whichever date is later. No retroactive payment or underpayment for the aid or childcare services described in this subdivision shall be issued pursuant to subdivision (k) of Section 11004 for any time period before the operative date described in this paragraph.

(c) The department shall revise its state Temporary Assistance for Needy Families plan to incorporate the provisions of subdivision (b) and to incorporate the good cause



exception provisions the department deems necessary as authorized by Section 608(a)(10)(B) of Title 42 of the United States Code.

(d) Notwithstanding the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code), the department may implement and administer this section through all-county letters or similar instruction that shall have the same force and effect as regulations until regulations are adopted.

~~(e) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2022. Prior to this date, the department shall issue comprehensive policy, fiscal, and claiming instructions to the counties. The department shall notify the Legislature when the Statewide Automated Welfare System has automated this section.~~

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## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

Bill No.  
as introduced, \_\_\_\_\_.  
General Subject: Family reunification services implementation.

Under existing law, when the federal government provides funds for the care of a needy relative with whom a needy child is living, aid to the child for any month includes aid to meet the needs of that relative, except as prescribed. Existing law provides that the parent or parents are to be considered living with the needy child for a period of up to 6 months, or for a time period as determined by the State Department of Social Services, of the needy child's absence from the family assistance unit, and the parents are eligible for CalWORKs aid and childcare services if specified conditions are met. Existing law made these provisions operative July 1, 2022. Existing law required the department to issue policy, fiscal, and claiming instructions to counties before that date, and also requires the department to notify the Legislature when the Statewide Automated Welfare System has automated these provisions.

This bill instead would require eligibility for the aid and childcare services described above to become operative on the later of July 1, 2024, or when the Statewide Automated Welfare System can perform the necessary automation. The bill would prohibit any retroactive payment or underpayment required by a specified provision from being made with respect to aid or childcare services issued for any time period before the operative date established by the bill.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

