

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 20, 2012

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 29, 2012

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 17, 2012

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 9, 2012

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 29, 2012

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 970**

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**Introduced by Senator De León**  
**(Principal coauthor: Senator Alquist)**  
**(Coauthor: Senator DeSaulnier)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Hill, Portantino, Williams,  
and Yamada)

January 17, 2012

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An act to add *and repeal* Section 15927-~~to~~ of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to health and human services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 970, as amended, De León. Health Care Reform Eligibility, Enrollment, and Retention Planning Act: coordination with other programs.

Existing law, the Health Care Reform Eligibility, Enrollment, and Retention Planning Act, requires the ~~California Health and Human Services Agency~~ *State Department of Health Care Services*, in consultation with specified entities, to establish standardized single, accessible application forms and related renewal procedures for state health subsidy programs, as defined, in accordance with specified requirements.

~~This bill would require provide for the transmittal to a county human services department to allow of information about an applicant initially applying for, or renewing, health care coverage using the single state application developed pursuant to the act, with the applicant's consent, if the applicant consents to have his or her application information used to simultaneously initiate applications for CalWORKs and CalFresh, as specified, unless for initiation of the application. This bill would authorize the Secretary of California Health and Human Services determines that to do so would delay the implementation of the single, standardized application for state health subsidy programs, as defined by specified existing law to phase in implementation of these provisions under certain circumstances. The bill would require the California Health and Human Services Agency to convene a workgroup of human services and health care advocates, legislative staff, and other specified representatives, to identify other human services and work support programs that might be integrated into this cross-application process consider the feasibility, costs, and benefits of integrating application and renewal processes for additional human services and work support programs with the single state application described in the bill, and to provide, by July 1, 2013, specified details regarding the workgroup to the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature. Implementation of the process created by the bill would be required by December 31, 2015, except as specified. This bill would require that the functionality necessary to implement the cross-application process be achieved by the expiration of a specified federal waiver. This bill would provide that those provisions would become inoperative under certain circumstances.~~

By imposing new duties on counties, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

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 these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 15927 is added to the Welfare and  
2 Institutions Code, to read:

3 15927. ~~(a) At the time of initial application for, or renewal of,~~  
4 ~~health care coverage using the single state application described~~  
5 ~~in subdivision (e) of Section 15926, an individual may consent to~~  
6 ~~have his or her application information used by the appropriate~~  
7 ~~county human services department to initiate a simultaneous~~  
8 ~~application for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility~~  
9 ~~to Kids (CalWORKs) and CalFresh programs, and by other state~~  
10 ~~or local departments, as appropriate, for other human services or~~  
11 ~~work support programs identified by the workgroup established~~  
12 ~~in subdivision (e):~~

13 ~~(b) If information used to renew a beneficiary's eligibility for~~  
14 ~~a state health subsidy program is sufficient to meet the requirements~~  
15 ~~for a CalWORKs or CalFresh semiannual report or annual~~  
16 ~~recertification, as specified in Sections 11265, 11265.1, 11265.2,~~  
17 ~~and 18925, the county human services department, with the~~  
18 ~~beneficiary's consent, shall use that information to continue or~~  
19 ~~recertify CalWORKs or CalFresh benefits for all eligible~~  
20 ~~individuals. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to either~~  
21 ~~require or prevent the shortening of a CalFresh certification period:~~

22 15927. *(a) At the time of initial application for, or renewal of,*  
23 *health care coverage using the single state application described*  
24 *in subdivision (c) of Section 15926, if an individual consents to*  
25 *have his or her health care application information used to initiate*  
26 *a simultaneous application for the California Work Opportunity*  
27 *and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program or the CalFresh*  
28 *program, that information shall be transmitted to the applicable*  
29 *county human services department to initiate the application.*

30 (e)

31 (b) The California Health and Human Services Agency shall  
32 convene a workgroup of human services and health care advocates,  
33 legislative staff, representatives of county human services  
34 departments and county eligibility workers, and staff from  
35 appropriate state and local departments, to consider and develop  
36 a plan for the integration of additional human services and work  
37 support programs into the process described in subdivision (a) *the*  
38 *feasibility, costs, and benefits of integrating application and*

1 *renewal processes for additional human services and work support*  
2 *programs with the single state application described in subdivision*  
3 *(c) of Section 15926. The California Health and Human Services*  
4 *Agency, by July 1, 2013, shall provide to the appropriate fiscal*  
5 *and policy committees of the Legislature details regarding the*  
6 *workgroup convened pursuant to this subdivision.*

7 ~~(d) This section shall be implemented by December 31, 2015.~~

8 ~~(e) Subdivisions (a) and (b) shall be inoperative if the Secretary~~  
9 ~~of Health and Human Services determines that the operation of~~  
10 ~~these subdivisions would delay the implementation of the single,~~  
11 ~~standardized application for state health subsidy programs as~~  
12 ~~described in subdivision (c) of Section 15926.~~

13 *(c) The functionality necessary to implement subdivision (a)*  
14 *shall be achieved no later than the expiration of the federal waiver*  
15 *for Office of Management and Budget Circular A-87, which*  
16 *requires states to evenly allocate the development costs for systems*  
17 *that are federally funded and will be used to determine eligibility*  
18 *for multiple programs.*

19 *(d) If the secretary determines that it is necessary, in order to*  
20 *ensure timely and accurate decisions on applications for aid, to*  
21 *phase in implementation of subdivision (a), implementation may*  
22 *be phased in, provided that program eligibility shall not be*  
23 *reduced.*

24 *(e) (1) If the secretary determines that the implementation of*  
25 *subdivision (a) would prevent the timely implementation of the*  
26 *single, standardized application for state health subsidy programs*  
27 *as described in subdivision (c) of Section 15926, the secretary*  
28 *shall report his or her recommendation to the Legislature, hold a*  
29 *public hearing on the issue, and execute a declaration stating that*  
30 *he or she has determined it is necessary to cease implementation*  
31 *of subdivision (a). The secretary shall provide a copy of the*  
32 *declaration to the Secretary of the Senate, the Chief Clerk of the*  
33 *Assembly, and the Legislative Counsel, and post the declaration*  
34 *on the California Health and Human Services Agency Internet*  
35 *Web site.*

36 *(2) On the date the secretary executes a declaration pursuant*  
37 *to paragraph (1), this section shall become inoperative, and shall*  
38 *be repealed on the next January 1 that is at least two years after*  
39 *the inoperative date, unless a later enacted statute extends or*  
40 *repeals that date.*

1     SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that  
2 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to  
3 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made  
4 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division  
5 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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