



AB 167: CalWORKs: CalFresh: Semi-Annual Reporting

The Problem

The current public assistance programs provide an undue burden on recipients with overlapping reporting forms.

When Californians apply for CalWORKs, CalFresh, or Medi-Cal, many have to complete a 29-page application.

CalWORKs recipients then have annually to fill out a 12-page redetermination form while CalFresh recipients have to annually complete a 5-page recertification form. They each also have to complete a 2-page semi-annual eligibility report.

Current Law

FOR APPLICANTS

The current SAWS 2 plus (Statewide Automated Welfare System) application form is 29 pages. It requires basic background information as well as extensive financial information for all members of a household. This is used only for CalWORKs, CalFresh, and Medi-Cal applications.

FOR RECIPIENTS

Most recipients have to complete three forms a year for renewal of their benefits:

1. For CalWORKs recertification there is a 12-page form known as the SAWS 2a completed once a year.
2. For CalFresh there is a 5-page CF 27 recertification form completed once a year.
3. For both CalWORKs and CalFresh, there is a 2-page eligibility status report form known as the SAR 7 (Semi-Annual Reporting) that monitors any changes in a household's financial situation.

The Solution

This bill simplifies current law by only requiring the SAR 7 form for semi-annual recertification instead of the three forms currently required, making it easier and more efficient for recipients to prove eligibility for public assistance. This form contains all the information the California Department of Social Services needs to determine continued eligibility.

Specifically, AB 167 will amend section 11265 of the Welfare and Institutions Code to require only a single, semi-annual reporting form.

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Support

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