
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1755 (Sharp-Collins) - CalWORKS

Version: June 3, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: June 29, 2026

Policy Vote: HUMAN S. 5 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: AB 1755 would revise the “deprivation rule” for purposes of CalWORKs eligibility.

Fiscal Impact:

- The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) estimates initial General Fund costs of \$1.3 million and ongoing General Fund costs of \$2.5 million to eliminate the 100-hour rule limitation for child deprivation. This assumes each month there is an average of approximately 121 families in the first year and 146 families ongoing that would be newly eligible for CalWORKs benefits with the elimination of the 100-hour rule. Cost estimates include costs for grants, employment services, child care, and automation.
- Cost to counties for administration would be potentially reimbursable by the state, subject to a determination by the Commission on State Mandates.

Background: The CalWORKs program provides temporary cash assistance aimed at moving children out of poverty and helping qualified low-income families meet their basic needs such as rent, clothing, utility bills, food, and other items needed to ensure children are cared for at home and safely remain with their families. In addition to cash assistance, adult CalWORKs recipients participate in welfare-to-work activities and are provided education and employment and training services designed to help remove barriers to work and promote self-sufficiency. CalWORKs is funded through a combination of state and county funds and federal funds received through the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

The deprivation rule means that in order to qualify for CalWORKs, a child in the family must be “deprived of parental support or care” due to the death, physical or mental incapacity, unemployment, or the continued absence of a parent. Current state law considers a child to be deprived of parental support or care due to unemployment of the child’s parent or parents when the parent has worked less than 100 hours in the preceding four weeks and meets specified federal requirements.

Proposed Law: AB 1755 would revise the current CalWORKs eligibility deprivation standard for unemployment and instead, provide that child is considered to be deprived of parental support or care due to the unemployment of the child’s parent or parents, regardless of the number of hours the child’s parent or parents work, provided that the family does not exceed the applicable gross or net income limits and is otherwise eligible for assistance.

Related Legislation: AB 1324 (Sharp-Collins, 2025) included a similar provision related to the CalWORKs deprivation rule. The bill was vetoed by the Governor.

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