

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2470 (Arambula) – As Amended March 19, 2026

Policy Committee: Human Services

Vote: 7 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill modifies California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) housing benefits for domestic violence survivors and requires the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to establish a Domestic Violence Survivors Reentry Program.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires CDSS to establish a one-stop reentry program that collaborates with local registrars of birth, death, and marriage and county recorders, credit bureaus, and financial institutions to assist survivors of domestic violence with the following:
 - a) Obtaining copies of their and their dependents' vital records, credit reports and credit scores from all of the major credit bureaus, and a listing of all bank, checking, investment, and other financial accounts in their name.
 - b) If the survivor has been subject to identity theft or fraud, creating a recovery plan with the Federal Trade Commission, closing fraudulent accounts, establishing new banking and credit accounts, applying for a new social security number, and other assistance as specified.
 - c) Protecting their identity from future assaults by teaching them how to freeze and unfreeze their credit, signing them up with a credit monitoring program, and providing financial literacy classes.
- 2) Requires a CalWORKs applicant or recipient seeking homeless assistance due to domestic violence who does not use all the temporary shelter assistance for which they are eligible due to finding permanent housing to receive the value of the remaining days of eligible temporary shelter assistance as permanent housing assistance.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) One-time General Fund (GF) costs to CDSS of an unknown amount, likely in the mid-hundreds of thousands of dollars for staff resources to develop and establish the reentry program.
- 2) Although the bill does not specify an implementation process, CDSS would likely collaborate with county social workers to deliver the reentry services. Under this scenario CDSS would incur ongoing GF costs, of an unknown amount, likely in the mid- hundreds of

thousands of dollars annually for additional staff to oversee the reentry program. Counties would incur ongoing administrative costs of an unknown amount, potentially in the millions of dollars annually, to provide the reentry services required under the bill. County costs are potentially reimbursable by the state, subject a determination by the Commission on State Mandates. If counties do not participate, significant costs would shift to CDSS.

Costs to administer the reentry program will vary depending on implementation and the number of domestic violence survivors who use the program, which is unknown. Because the bill does not limit the reentry program to CalWORKs applicants and recipients, the qualified number of applicants is potentially substantial.

- 3) One-time GF automation costs of an unknown amount to establish new systems or update existing programs to support reentry program implementation, including information sharing with other institutions.
- 4) One-time GF automation costs to CDSS of approximately \$400,000 to accommodate the CalWORKs housing assistance program changes.

The Legislative Analyst's Office recently warned of General Fund structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year in the 2027-28 fiscal year and ongoing.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

According to the Little Hoover Commission Report, 'Beyond the Crisis', intimate partner violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women. The primary reason women return to abusive partners is economic insecurity. Further, many survivors experience economic abuse in their relationship, which can destroy their finances and credit. [This bill] recognizes that escaping domestic violence is not just a matter of finding temporary shelter. It is about empowering survivors with the tools and resources they need to rebuild their lives with dignity and long-term security. The bill aims to advance housing stability, financial autonomy, and public safety for some of our state's most vulnerable residents.

- 2) **Background. Domestic Violence.** Data from the California Study on Violent Experiences Across the Lifespan in 2020 reveals that 24% of adult women and 6% of adult men in California experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetimes. In addition to physical or sexual abuse, many domestic violence victims also experience mental and emotional abuse at the hands of their abusers, including stalking, deprivation of access to the family's financial resources and exertion of economic control, as well as sabotage of the victim's attempts to work or go to school.

According to the author, survivors often face additional barriers that make recovery even more difficult. Many experience identity theft and financial abuse, damaged credit, fraudulent debt, loss of vital documents, and barriers to securing housing due to their credit history, often compounded by limited awareness of available emergency housing resources.

This bill requires CDSS to establish a one-stop reentry program that partners with county vital records offices, credit bureaus, and financial institutions to help survivors obtain identity documents, repair credit and financial damage, and protect against future economic abuse.

CalWORKs Housing Assistance. CalWORKs provides cash assistance and other benefits to qualified low-income families through a combination of federal, state, and county funds. The CalWORKs Homeless Assistance (HA) program helps CalWORKs families meet the costs of securing or maintaining permanent housing or provides temporary emergency shelter. HA serves eligible CalWORKs recipients or CalWORKs applicants who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Under existing law, a family is eligible for HA under CalWORKs if their homelessness is a direct result of domestic violence and other criteria are met. Additional HA is allowed once in a lifetime if domestic violence is verified by a sworn statement by the victim. This benefit is in addition to other HA benefits and does not count against the limits on other HA benefits or once-in-a-lifetime exceptions. Existing law provides additional HA for two periods of up to 16 days of temporary emergency shelter assistance and two payments of permanent housing assistance.

If a recipient of additional HA finds permanent housing and has not used all of the emergency shelter assistance for which they are eligible, this bill allows the recipient to receive the value of their remaining days of eligible temporary shelter assistance as permanent housing assistance.

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