
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 1030 (Smallwood-Cuevas) - CalWORKs: unrelated adult male

Version: February 10, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: April 20, 2026

Policy Vote: HUMAN S. 5 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: SB 1030 would repeal existing provisions requiring an unrelated adult male who resides with a family applying for or receiving aid from the CalWORKs program to make a financial contribution to the family.

Fiscal Impact: The California Department of Social Services estimates the following costs:

- Ongoing General Fund costs of \$934,000 based on data assumptions that 48 families would be newly eligible for CalWORKs benefits. This includes estimated costs for related increases in employment and child care services.
- One-time automation costs of \$75,000 to update the California Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS). The costs would be absorbable using CalSAWS Maintenance and Enhancements funding.
- Costs to counties for administration would be potentially reimbursable by the state, subject to a determination by the Commission on State Mandates.

Background: CalWORKs 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 are provided education, employment, and training services designed to help remove barriers to work and promote self-sufficiency.

Eligibility for CalWORKs is based on family size, income level, and region and tied to the needs of the children in the home. Families must show economic hardship through income and asset tests. Family size and income are based on CDSS procedures that county eligibility workers use to establish who is living in the home, including adults unrelated to the children, and the income of those adults, and whether enough of that income is available to support those children.

State law requires that whenever an unrelated adult male resides with a family applying for or receiving aid for CalWORKs, he must be required to make a financial contribution to the family which cannot be less than it would cost him to provide himself with an independent living arrangement. The minimum financial contribution to the family must be determined in accordance with standards established by CDSS which takes into account the adult male person's income and expenses. CDSS regulations must require the mother of the children and the unrelated male to present all of the facts in

connection with the sharing of expenses which comprise the agreement whereby the adult male resides with the family. The conditions of the agreement and the facts related to the sharing of the family expenses must be signed under penalty of perjury by both the mother of the child and the unrelated male. In the event that either the mother or the adult male person willfully and knowingly fails to cooperate during the period such joint sharing of expenses arrangement exists, aid to the family may be discontinued.

Proposed Law: SB 1030 would repeal existing provisions requiring an unrelated adult male who resides with a family applying for or receiving aid from the CalWORKs program to make a financial contribution to the family.

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