

Date of Hearing: July 1, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Buffy Wicks, Chair
SB 1030 (Smallwood-Cuevas) – As Amended May 14, 2026

Policy Committee: Human Services

Vote: 6 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill repeals the requirement that an unrelated adult male residing with a family applying for or receiving California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) aid make a financial contribution to the family of not less than the amount it would cost to provide himself an independent living arrangement.

FISCAL EFFECT:

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) estimates the following costs:

- 1) Ongoing General Fund (GF) costs of \$935,000 based on data assumptions that 48 families would be newly eligible for CalWORKs benefits. This includes estimated costs for related increases in employment and childcare services.

California's annual \$3.7 billion federal TANF block grant can be used flexibly within the CalWORKs program. It is fully allocated within the existing and proposed state budgets. Therefore, this analysis assumes any new costs for the CalWORKs program will be funded by the GF. State GF costs may be mitigated to the extent TANF funding is not fully expended in any particular year, or if one of the CalWORKs subaccounts has sufficient revenue available to support grant costs.

- 2) One-time absorbable GF automation costs of \$116,000 to update the California Statewide Automated Welfare System.
- 3) Ongoing likely cost savings to counties due to reduced administrative burden on county workers who would no longer be required to determine single-parent families' financial arrangements with unrelated adult males.

COMMENTS:

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

The inclusion of the unrelated adult male rule in California's welfare program reflects a broader legacy of punitive policy design that has disproportionately harmed families of color. Policies structured around work requirements, time limits, and restrictive household composition rules trace back to stereotypes that cast Black and Brown mothers and

caregivers as suspect, irresponsible, or undeserving. These frameworks reinforce stigma rather than address the structural barriers to economic security that communities of color face, including wage inequities, housing instability, and systemic discrimination. [This bill] is an important step toward dismantling elements of welfare policy that echo this racist legacy and replacing them with policies grounded in dignity, equity, and evidence.

- 2) **Background.** CalWORKs provides eligible low-income families with cash grants and supportive services, such as subsidized childcare, employment training, mental health counseling, and housing assistance. Eligibility for CalWORKs is based on family size, income level, and region and tied to the needs of the children in the home. Family size and income are based on CDSS regulations 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.

Existing regulations define an “unrelated adult male” as someone who is at least 18 years of age, is not the father of any children in the home, is not married to or the registered domestic partner of the CalWORKs mother, and lives with the CalWORKs family. This definition explicitly excludes a paying lodger, roomer, or boarder.

Existing law requires an unrelated adult male who resides with a family applying for or receiving CalWORKs aid 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. Existing law requires the minimum financial contribution to the family to be determined according to CDSS regulations which consider the adult male’s income and expenses. Existing law also requires the mother of the children and the unrelated adult male to present facts showing the sharing of expenses and to sign sworn statements explaining his financial contribution and income. Refusal to sign the required forms may result in aid being denied or discontinued.

This bill repeals the requirement that an unrelated adult male residing in a CalWORKs home make a financial contribution to the family not less than it would cost to provide himself with an independent living arrangement as a condition of the family receiving aid. Notably, if the unrelated adult male’s income or resources are used to support the CalWORKs family, the income and resources are counted in the CalWORKs eligibility and aid determination.

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