



## 2012 State Legislation

### Social Services Modernization & Efficiency Act of 2012

Contact: Kevin Aslanian at 916-712-0071 Email:

[kevin.aslanian@ccwro.org](mailto:kevin.aslanian@ccwro.org)

<http://ccwro.org>

## Coalition of California Welfare Rights

### ISSUE

California has not been getting the maximum use of the current technology to remove barriers to participation in the various social services programs and to enhance efficiencies of the operations of the California social services safety net for the poor.

### NEED

With the increased enhancement of technology it is imperative that the California Social Services system utilize the current technology to make our social services programs more transparent, effective and efficient. Current technology provides for electronic verification and electronic communications in lieu of the current hard copy verification and communications in many cases.

### What Does The Bill Do?

1. Limits verification of eligibility to only items required by federal law. There are three steps for verification: (a) verification through attestation; (b) if the eligibility factor cannot be verified through attestation, then the county shall verify the eligibility factor through available computer databases available to counties; (c) if the eligibility factor cannot be verified through attestation or through the various computer databases, then it shall be verified as provided in W&IC §11275.
2. Allow applicants or recipients to select email as an option for receiving certain notice of action and other communications from the county welfare department to the extent permitted by federal law. The applicant or recipient shall be able to revert back to paper notice at anytime. Finally the bill provides for privacy protections against counties using the applicants' or recipients' electronic information for any purpose other than communicating with the applicant or recipient.
3. Provide for alternative means of interviewing for applications and redeterminations other than in-person at the option of the applicant or recipient.
4. The department shall obtain a federal waiver to delay conducting the expedited service food stamp interview until the regular food stamp interview is conducted.
5. Any state plan submitted by any department to any federal agency for any program administered by any department pursuant this code, said plan of the department and any and all communication relative to said plan, including any writings relative to any waiver requested or received by such department, shall be electronically available to the public at all times

**Co-Sponsors of the Bill:** Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organization (CCWRO); California Welfare Directors Association (CWDA); Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and Western Center on Law and Poverty (WCLP)