AB 2241 (Alvarez) No Wrong Door for Reporting Changes or Providing Requested Verification to County Welfare Offices

**Bill Summary** This bill would allow applicants and recipients of public benefits to report changes and provide verification requested by the county welfare office that is required by law.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CalWORKS Applications Denied due to Applicant Failure to Meet Procedural Requirements** | | | |
| Month/Year | Total Applications | Total Application Procedural Denials | % |
| 21-Jul | 13181 | 7215 | 55% |
| 21-Aug | 13950 | 7492 | 54% |
| 21-Sep | 13516 | 7411 | 55% |
| 21-Oct | 12506 | 6914 | 55% |
| 21-Nov | 13459 | 7609 | 57% |
| 21-Dec | 13616 | 8059 | 59% |
| 22-Jan | 11831 | 6907 | 58% |
| 22-Feb | 12091 | 6775 | 56% |
| 22-Mar | 12911 | 7183 | 56% |
| 22-Apr | 12131 | 6356 | 52% |
| 22-May | 12339 | 6538 | 53% |
| 22-Jun | 12847 | 6695 | 52% |
| 22-Jul | 12119 | 6343 | 52% |
| 22-Aug | 14118 | 7298 | 52% |
| 22-Sep | 17308 | 9190 | 53% |
| 22-Oct | 18764 | 9943 | 53% |
| 22-Nov | 19332 | 10569 | 55% |
| 22-Dec | 19036 | 10308 | 54% |
| 23-Jan | 18919 | 10023 | 53% |
| 23-Feb | 17881 | 9696 | 54% |
| 23-Mar | 20117 | 10842 | 54% |
| 23-Apr | 17893 | 9557 | 53% |
| 23-May | 19185 | 10267 | 54% |
| 23-Jun | 20351 | 10873 | 53% |
| 23-Jul | 21814 | 11904 | 55% |
| 23-Aug | 26853 | 14655 | 55% |
| 23-Sep | 23723 | 13393 | 56% |
| 23-Oct | 25186 | 14021 | 56% |
| 23-Nov | 22061 | 12510 | 57% |

2 California Department of Social Services. “CA 255 CW – CalWORKs Report on Reasons for Denials and Other Non- Approvals of Applications” October 27, 2022, [https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/research-and-](https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/research-and-data/calworks-data-tables/ca-255-cw) [data/calworks-data-tables/ca-255-cw.](https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/research-and-data/calworks-data-tables/ca-255-cw)

**Background** A number of counties refuse to accept reports of changes of income or other circumstances of public benefit beneficiaries and requested verification through email. This ends up beneficiaries being accused to failure to report changes that often lead to referral for welfare fraud and overpayments.

Current law requires by CalWORKs and CalFfresh beneficiaries report to the county when their income exceeds the “income reporting threshold” to avoid overpayments.1 Counties receive 12.5% incentive payments for collecting overpayments that were allegedly caused by fraud.2

Counties also deny applications for failure to provide verification, also known as “procedural reasons”.

The two tables below show the percentage of applications denied due to procedural reasons, many of which are failure to provide requested verification.3

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CalFresh Applications Denied due to Applicants' Failure to Meet Procedural Requirements** | | | |
| Month/Year | Denials | Procedural Denials | % |
| 21-Jul | 89455 | 66152 | 74% |
| 21-Aug | 98677 | 68798 | 70% |
| 21-Sep | 93541 | 68239 | 73% |
| 21-Oct | 82514 | 68347 | 83% |
| 21-Nov | 107161 | 80728 | 75% |
| 21-Dec | 97482 | 72450 | 74% |
| 22-Jan | 80218 | 57622 | 72% |
| 22-Feb | 86068 | 62347 | 72% |
| 22-Mar | 93146 | 64157 | 69% |
| 22-Apr | 86766 | 58930 | 68% |
| 22-May | 82730 | 54067 | 65% |
| 22-Jun | 89243 | 58889 | 66% |
| 22-Jul | 91722 | 60641 | 66% |
| 22-Aug | 107909 | 70751 | 66% |
| 22-Sep | 105755 | 70355 | 67% |
| 22-Oct | 105072 | 69880 | 67% |
| 22-Nov | 103675 | 70697 | 68% |
| 22-Dec | 94042 | 63760 | 68% |
| 23-Jan | 90922 | 60901 | 67% |
| 23-Feb | 92766 | 63800 | 69% |
| 23-Mar | 103754 | 71907 | 69% |
| 23-Apr | 85780 | 58292 | 68% |
| 23-May | 92340 | 61983 | 67% |
| 23-Jun | 93544 | 62099 | 66% |
| 23-Jul | 80340 | 52935 | 66% |
| 23-Aug | 94036 | 58441 | 62% |
| 23-Sep | 82920 | 54031 | 65% |

1 California Department of Social Services. “CF 296 - CalFresh Monthly Caseload Movement Statistical Report” October 28, 2022, [https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/research-and-](https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/research-and-data/calfresh-data-tables/cf296) [data/calfresh-data-tables/cf296.](https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/research-and-data/calfresh-data-tables/cf296)

# Details of the Bill

AB-2241 would require counties to accept change reports and requested verification any way the applicant can get it to the welfare office – no wrong door for reporting change or providing requested verification.

# Support

* Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations (CCWRO) (Co-Sponsor)
* Western Center on Law & Poverty (Co-Sponsor)

# For More Information

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