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DEPARTMENT OF
FINANCE

FINANCE ADMINISTRATION

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

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May 31, 2005

Law and Legislative Committee
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT Senate Bill 112 relating to Refugee Social Services

LOCATION/COUNCIL DISTRICT Citywide

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Law and Legislation Committee support SB 112 relating to refugee social services.

CONTACT PERSONS Tina Lee-Vogt, Legislative Affairs Analyst - 808-2679

FOR COMMITTEE MEETING OF June 7, 2005

SUMMARY

This report recommends that the Law and Legislation Committee support SB 112 relating to refugee social services.

BACKGROUND

Existing law establishes, through the federal Refugee Act of 1980, a funding source for employment-related and English language training services provided by counties to refugees. Existing law directs the Department of Social Services (DSS) to apportion these funds to eligible counties in the same proportion as each county's proportion of the total number of refugees on aid in all eligible counties.

SB 112 amends the formula for dividing these federal funds for social services among counties. The State of California receives \$9 million in federal funds for refugee employment services. Of these funds, \$7 million is divided among ten eligible counties including Sacramento.

According to the author, the current formula results in a disadvantage for those counties that have a high proportion of recent refugees relative to their proportion of refugees on cash aid. For example, the County of Sacramento receives just over 20 percent of the funds, yet it has about 30 percent of the refugees.

SB 112 proposes to base half of the allocation on the present method (each eligible county's proportion of the total number of refugees in all eligible counties who are on cash aid) and half on general refugee population (each eligible county's proportion of the total number of recent refugees in all eligible counties).

The Neighborhood Services Department has reviewed this legislation and concurs with the staff recommendation to support SB 112.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

SB 112 would provide more than \$300,000 in additional funding for the County of Sacramento for refugees social services.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

None

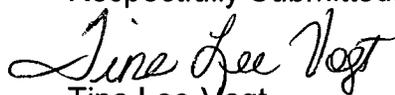
POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Staff recommends that the Law and Legislation Committee support SB 112. This measure is consistent with the City's efforts to serve our region's diverse community.

ESBD EFFORTS

No goods or services are being purchased under this report.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tina Lee-Vogt
Legislative Affairs Analyst

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Nishimoto', written in a cursive style.

KEN NISHIMOTO
Deputy City Manager

Attachments

Letter of Support, page 4

Senate Bill 112 - Bill Text, page 5

Senate Bill 112 - Bill Analysis, page 8

June 7, 2005

Honorable Deborah Ortiz
California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support: Senate Bill 112 relating to Refugee Social Services

Dear Senator Ortiz:

On behalf of the City of Sacramento, I am pleased to express the City's support of Senate Bill 347 relating to refugee social services. SB 112 will ensure that the County of Sacramento receives its fair share of funding for refugee social services programs.

Thank you for introducing this important social services legislation.

Sincerely,

LAUREN HAMMOND, Chair
Law and Legislation Committee

CC: Senator Dave Cox
Assembly Member Dave Jones
Assembly Member Alan Nakanishi
Assembly Member Roger Neillo
Mayor Fargo and Members of the City Council

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 25, 2005
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 4, 2005
AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 17, 2005

SENATE BILL

No. 112

Introduced by Senator Ortiz
(Coauthor: Senator Florez)

~~(Coauthor: Assembly Member Jones~~ *Coauthors: Assembly Members
Chan, Jones, Leno, Matthews, Torrico, Tran, and Villines)*

January 24, 2005

An act to amend Section 13276 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 112, as amended, Ortiz. Refugee social services.

Under existing law, the State Department of Social Services must require that a county's costs in administering employment-related and English language training programs funded by certain program funds derived from the federal Refugee Act of 1980 not exceed the percentage for county administrative costs permitted by the department in administering the Refugee Targeted Assistance Program. Existing law requires the department to allocate all social services funds derived from the act, after setting aside state administrative funds, and all federal targeted assistance funds received by the department, to each eligible county in the same proportion that the number of refugees on aid in each eligible county bears to the total number of refugees on aid in all eligible counties. Existing law defines "aid" and "eligible county" for these purposes.

This bill would revise these provisions to instead require 50% of the social services funds to be allocated in the same proportion that

refugees arrived in each eligible county bears to the total number of refugees that arrived in all eligible counties during the preceding 60-month period for which the department has data, and 50% of the funds to be allocated in the same proportion that refugees on aid in each eligible county bears to the total refugees on aid in all eligible counties, during the preceding 60-month period for which the department has data. The bill would make conforming changes in the applicable definitions.

The bill would instead require the department, after setting aside the necessary state administrative funds, to allocate all federal targeted assistance funds received by the department to the counties designated by the federal government as eligible, in the same way funds are allocated under a federal formula.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 13276 of the Welfare and Institutions
2 Code is amended to read:

3 13276. (a) After setting aside the necessary state
4 administrative funds, the department shall allocate all social
5 services funds derived from the federal Refugee Act of 1980
6 (Public Law 96-212), as amended, that are required to be used for
7 employment-related and English language training to each
8 eligible county in the following manner:

9 (1) Fifty percent of the money allocated in the same proportion
10 that refugees arrived in each eligible county bears to the total
11 number of refugees that arrived in all eligible counties, during the
12 preceding 60-month period for which the department has data.

13 (2) Fifty percent of the money allocated in the same proportion
14 that refugees on aid in each eligible county bears to the total
15 refugees on aid in all eligible counties.

16 (b) After setting aside the necessary state administrative funds,
17 the department shall allocate all federal targeted assistance
18 received by the department to the counties designated by the
19 federal government as eligible in the same way funds are
20 allocated by the federal government in the final targeted
21 assistance formula allocations to states.

1 (c) For the purposes of this section, “eligible county” means a
2 county *or city and county* designated as impacted using a formula
3 to be developed by the department based upon the refugee
4 arrivals in the county during the preceding 60-month period for
5 which the department has data.

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SENATE RULES COMMITTEE	SB 112
Office of Senate Floor Analyses	
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327-4478	

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 112
 Author: Ortiz (D), et al
 Amended: 5/25/05
 Vote: 21

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE : 5-1, 4/26/05
 AYES: Simitian, Maldonado, Alquist, Chesbro, Florez
 NOES: Aanestad
 NO VOTE RECORDED: Alarcon

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE : Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT : Refugee social services

SOURCE : Author

DIGEST : This bill changes the funding formula for dividing among counties federal funds for social services for refugees.

Senate Floor Amendments of 5/26/05 clarify the inclusion in the bill of San Francisco as a "city and county" and add co-authors.

ANALYSIS :

Existing Law

- 1. Establishes, through the federal Refugee Act of 1980, a funding source for employment-related and English

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refugees.

- 2.Directs the Department of Social Services (DSS) to apportion these funds to eligible counties in the same proportion as each county's population of the total number of refugees on aid in all eligible counties.
- 3.Defines "aid" as Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Refugee Cash Assistance, and county general assistance.
- 4.Defines "eligible county" as a county designated as impacted using a formula developed by DSS based upon refugee arrivals in the county during the preceding 60-month period.
- 5.Establishes, through the federal Refugee Act of 1980, a separate funding source for the Refugee Targeted Assistance Program.

This bill:

- 1.Amends the formula for dividing all social services funds derived from the federal Refugee Act of 1980 such that half of the funds will be allocated to each eligible county in the same proportion that refugees arrived in each eligible county during the preceding 60 months, and the other half of the funds will be allocated to each eligible county in the same proportion that refugees on aid bears to the total number of refugees on aid in all eligible counties.
- 2.Codifies the current method for dividing all federal targeted assistance program funds among eligible counties.

Background

California receives slightly more than \$9 million in federal funds for refugee employment services. These funds are administered by the Department of Social Services (DSS), and \$7 million is shared, by formula, among ten eligible counties (those with the largest number of refugees). Those counties are Alameda, Contra Costa,

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Fresno, Los Angeles, Orange, Sacramento, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Stanislaus, and Yolo.

The current formula divides funds proportionately among eligible counties based on the number of refugees on cash assistance. Grants in federal fiscal year 2004 ranged from \$3.851 million for Los Angeles (with 55 percent of the refugees on cash assistance) to \$77,000 for Contra Costa (with 1.1 percent of the refugees on cash assistance).

Practical Results

As with any change in a funding formula, this bill will result in some counties getting slightly more money than they are currently getting and at least one county getting less.

Based on information provided by DSS, following are comparisons of the present division of funds and the division of funds if the bill were in effect. Nine counties would gain funds and one county would lose funds. The statewide total remains unchanged.

County	Current Appropriation	Appropriations Per SB 112	Change
Alameda	\$ 203,100	\$ 247,000	+\$ 44,000
Contra Costa	\$ 77,038	\$ 92,000	+\$ 15,000
Fresno	\$ 119,058	\$ 200,000	+\$ 81,000
Los Angeles	\$3,851,887	\$3,082,000	<\$770,000>
Orange	\$ 455,223	\$ 468,000	+\$ 13,000
Sacramento	\$1,582,775	\$1,898,000	+\$316,000
San Francisco	\$ 112,000	\$ 189,000	+\$ 77,000
Santa Clara	\$ 364,178	\$ 533,000	+\$169,000

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Stanislaus	\$ 119,058	\$ 154,000	+\$ 35,000
Yolo	\$ 119,058	\$ 141,000	+\$ 22,000

FISCAL EFFECT : Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes
Local: NO

SUPPORT : (Verified 5/26/05)

California Commission on Asian Pacific Islander American
Affairs
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
Fresno County Board of Supervisors
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
Southeast Asian Assistance Center

Kevin McCarthy, Councilmember, City of Sacramento
Hmong Women's Heritage Association

OPPOSITION : (Verified 5/26/05)

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT : The author's office points out that the current formula disadvantages those counties that have a high proportion of recent refugees relative to their proportion of refugees on cash aid. For example, according to the author's office, Sacramento receives just over 20 percent of the funds, yet it has about 30 percent of the refugees.

In response, this bill proposes to base half of the allocation on the present method (each eligible county's proportion of the total number of refugees in all eligible counties who are on cash aid) and half on general refugee population (each eligible county's proportion of the total number of recent refugees in all eligible counties).

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION : In opposing this bill, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors state, "SB 112, as amended on April 4, 2005, would change the formula used to

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recalculate each County's share of total State Refugee Employment Social Services (RESS) and the Refugee Targeted Assistance Program (RTAP) funds. The allocation of the RESS funds would require 50 percent of the funds to be allocated on the proportion of refugees receiving public assistance, and the remaining 50 percent based on the most recent 60-month refugee arrival date. In addition, SB 112 would allocate RTAP funds based on arrival data during the most recent 60 month period as of September 30, 2004, which is more than nine months before the Federal Fiscal Year 2005 RTAP funds are allocated by CDSS to continue.

"Secondary migration studies have shown that refugees transfer or migrate to other counties where there are higher concentrations of family, friends or social support that is of the same nationality/ethnicity. Refugee arrival data neither accurately measures a county's refugee population nor its need for RESS and RTAP funds, which are intended to help refugees become economically self-sufficient.

"In addition, the lack of funding will cause the unintended consequence of unnecessarily increasing the demand for CalWORKs services, thereby, raising caseloads throughout each county. In October 2004, 7,054 (89%) of the 7,934 aided (CalWORKs or RCA) adult refugees in California who were in the U.S. less than 60 months were on CalWORKs. Without

RESS or RTAP funds, counties would have to use more CalWORKs funds to provide employment-related services to their adult refugee CalWORKs recipients."

CTW:cm 5/27/05 Senate Floor Analyses

SUPPORT/OPPOSITION: SEE ABOVE

**** END ****

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