

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 13, 2025

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025–26 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 450

Introduced by Assembly Member Carrillo

February 6, 2025

An act to ~~amend Section 18937~~ *add and repeal Article 6 (commencing with Section 9170) of Chapter 2 of Division 8.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 450, as amended, Carrillo. ~~Cash assistance for aged, blind, and disabled legal immigrants.~~ *Public social services: support for aging immigrant and undocumented older adults.*

Existing law, the Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act, establishes the California Department of Aging and states that the mission of the department is to provide leadership to the area agencies on aging in developing systems of home- and community-based services that maintain individuals in their own homes or least restrictive homelike environments.

This bill would, subject to an appropriation for these purposes, require the department to oversee a stakeholder process to support findings and recommendations on how to best support undocumented older adults, as defined, as they age in California. The bill would require the department to establish a panel, as specified, and would require the panel to invite stakeholder and subject matter experts to participate. The bill would require the panel to consider specified issues, including affordability and access to social services and housing. The bill would require the first meeting to occur no later than 90 days after funding

for the panel becomes available and authorizes the department to contract with academic research entities to supplement the process.

The bill would require the panel to issue findings and recommendations to the department by July 1, 2028, on the most effective ways to implement policies and programs to support aging immigrant and undocumented older adults. The bill would require the department to submit a report containing the panel's findings to the Legislature on or before December 1, 2028. The bill would also require the department to provide any policy recommendations the panel makes to the California Health and Human Services Agency to include in their Master Plan for Aging.

The bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2029. The bill makes relating findings and declarations.

~~Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services to establish and supervise a county- or county consortia-administered program to provide cash assistance to aged, blind, and disabled legal immigrants who are not citizens and who successfully complete an application process, except as specified. Existing law requires the department to conduct disability evaluations for the program. Existing law requires the department to contract with the federal government to administer the program, if the federal government agrees to do so.~~

~~This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to those provisions.~~

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares that addressing
- 2 the needs of the aging California population is of utmost
- 3 importance to ensure older adults in California are able to meet
- 4 their needs as they age. Moreover, the Legislature also finds that
- 5 ensuring policy is inclusive of immigrant and undocumented older
- 6 adults in California who have lived, worked and contributed to
- 7 California, but as a result of their immigration status are unable
- 8 to access critical social services intended to assist older adults is
- 9 important.
- 10 SEC. 2. Article 6 (commencing with Section 9170) is added to
- 11 Chapter 2 of Division 8.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, to
- 12 read:

Article 6. *Support for Aging Immigrant and Undocumented Older Adults*

9170. (a) (1) *The department shall oversee a stakeholder process to support the development of findings and recommendations on how to best support undocumented older adults as they age in California. To help inform the stakeholder process, the department shall establish a panel consisting of the following members:*

(A) *Six members appointed by the department as follows:*

(i) *Three members from nonprofit organizations that represent aging or immigrant populations.*

(ii) *Three members from the clinical or health care space that serve rural and under-resourced communities.*

(B) *One member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly with experience in immigrant rights or aging advocacy.*

(C) *One member appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules with experience in immigrant rights or aging advocacy.*

(2) *Each member shall be appointed to a term of two years.*

(b) *A member who fails to attend two panel meetings in one calendar year shall be deemed removed from the panel, and the appointing power for that member shall appoint a new member to fill the vacancy.*

(c) *Panel members shall not receive per diem or other similar compensation for serving as a panel member.*

9171. (a) *The panel created pursuant to Section 9170 shall invite stakeholders and subject matter experts, including clinics, researchers, housing advocates, and nonprofit organizations to participate in the stakeholder process. As appropriate, the costs of the panel and the stakeholder process may be reduced by in-kind or other contributions from third parties.*

(b) *During the process, representatives from the department and members of the panel shall consider issues including, but not limited to, affordability and guaranteed basic income, access to social services and housing, and access to health care services, including specialist and language access.*

(c) *The first meeting of the stakeholder process shall be held no later than 90 days after the funding becomes available for the purposes of this section.*

1 (d) The department may contract with academic research entities
2 to commission expert research and testimony to supplement the
3 stakeholder process and support the development of findings and
4 recommendations pursuant to this section.

5 9172. (a) Upon completion of the stakeholder process pursuant
6 to Section 9171, but by no later than July 1, 2028, the panel shall
7 issue findings and recommendations to the department on the most
8 effective ways to implement policies and programs to support aging
9 immigrant and undocumented older adults in California.

10 (b) On or before December 31, 2028, the department shall
11 present a report including the findings and recommendations
12 provided by the panel under subdivision (a) to the Legislature.

13 (c) The department shall provide any policy recommendations
14 made by the panel under subdivision (a) to the California Health
15 and Human Services Agency to be included in the Master Plan for
16 Aging established pursuant to Executive Order No. N-14-19.

17 9173. For purposes of this article, “older adult” means an
18 adult 55 years of age or older.

19 9174. This article shall be implemented upon appropriation
20 by the Legislature for purposes of this article.

21 9175. This article shall remain in effect only until January 1,
22 2029, and as of that date is repealed.

23 SECTION 1. ~~Section 18937 of the Welfare and Institutions~~
24 ~~Code is amended to read:~~

25 ~~18937. The State Department of Social Services shall establish~~
26 ~~and supervise a county- or county consortia-administered program~~
27 ~~to provide cash assistance to aged, blind, and disabled legal~~
28 ~~immigrants who are not citizens and who successfully complete~~
29 ~~an application process. An application shall not be required of~~
30 ~~individuals described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section~~
31 ~~18944. The department shall conduct the disability evaluations for~~
32 ~~the program. If the federal government agrees to administer the~~
33 ~~program, the department shall contract with the federal government~~
34 ~~for this purpose, and the county responsibilities shall be reduced~~
35 ~~by the duties and responsibilities the federal government~~
36 ~~undertakes.~~