

1 [Section 17001.51 of the California W & I Code and Residency Requirements.]

2 **Resolution urging the Department of Human Services to implement regulations for**
3 **Section 17001.51 of the California Welfare and Institutions Code, which allows for**
4 **the screening of alcohol and substance abuse, urging the Department to implement**
5 **regulations strengthening the residency requirements for GA, CALM, PAES, and**
6 **SSIP recipients, and urging the Department to hold hearings with the Human**
7 **Services Commission before implementing these new regulations.**
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9 WHEREAS, Section 17001.51(a) of the California Welfare and Institutions Code states
10 that “a county may require adult applicants and recipients of benefits under the general
11 assistance program to undergo screening for substance abuse when it is determined by the
12 county that there is reasonable suspicion to believe that an individual is dependent upon
13 illegal drugs or alcohol;” and,
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15 WHEREAS, Additionally, Section 17001.51(b) states that “a county may require as a
16 condition of aid reasonable participation in substance abuse or alcohol treatment programs
17 for persons screened pursuant to subdivision (a) and professionally evaluated to be in need
18 of treatment, if the services are actually available at no charge to the applicant or recipient;”
19 and,
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21 WHEREAS, The Department of Human Services is not currently screening applicants
22 for General Assistance, CALM, PAES, and SSIP for substance abuse as permitted under
23 state law; and,

24 WHEREAS, DHS could use current caseworkers to screen GA applicants for
25 substance abuse; and,

1 WHEREAS, Such screening would strengthen and solidify concurrent efforts to ensure
2 that those individuals who receive cash assistance are not wasting their aid payments by
3 feeding an addiction; and,

4 WHEREAS, Sections 20.56.8 (GA), 20.75.1 (PAES), 20.105.1 (CALM), and 20.205.1
5 (SSIP) of the San Francisco Administrative Code set forth the residency requirements for
6 applicants to the four County Aid Programs; and,

7 WHEREAS, Under these sections, an applicant must demonstrate that he or she has
8 resided in the City and County of San Francisco for fifteen days; and,

9 WHEREAS, State law requires that residency need only be proved for fifteen days,
10 and this state law prohibits the Board of Supervisors from extending this period of residency;
11 and,

12 WHEREAS, Currently, the Department requires minimal proof of residency; and,

13 WHEREAS, As the Budget Analyst pointed out in his report on the implementation
14 plan for Proposition N, the Department should be taking steps to ensure that the City is not
15 being defrauded by applicants who really do not live in the City and County of San Francisco;
16 and,

17 WHEREAS, If DHS strengthened the regulations it imposed to determine residency, it
18 would strengthen and solidify concurrent efforts to ensure that those individuals who receive
19 cash assistance actually live in the City and County of San Francisco; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Department of Human Services
21 **to implement regulations for Section 17001.51 of the California Welfare and**
22 **Institutions Code, which allows for the screening of alcohol and substance abuse;**
23 **and, be it**

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1 **FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Department to**
2 **implement regulations strengthening the residency requirements for GA, CALM,**
3 **PAES, and SSIP recipients; and, be it**

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Department to
5 prepare these new regulations within two months of the effective date of this resolution and
6 that the Department will hold public hearings before the Department of Human Services
7 Commission on these new regulations before implementing the new regulations.
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