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## **TANF Reauthorization Update**

TANF markup did not happen on July 23, 2003. There were several reasons for this. Primarily, the Senate Finance Committee rules require a 48 hour notice before a bill is marked up. The outline of the bill that we reported last week did not have the necessary votes to pass on 7/23/03, thus, mark-up was postponed.

Mark-up could happen during the week of July 28, 2003.

## **2003-2004 State Budget Adopted by Legislature**

**Today, July 29, 2003, the State budget was finally adopted by the State Legislature.**

**The budget is composed of the budget bill, AB 1765 and various trailer bills implementing the budget. The welfare trailer bill is AB 1752.**

You can view the bill at: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html>.

AB 1752 repeals the June 2003 COLA. Thus, the COLA for June will continue. The October 2003 COLA was suspended.

Section 32 of AB 1752, the budget trailer bill, implements five months of transitional food stamps, which is a state option under federal law. Thus, any person who becomes ineligible for CalWORKs can continue to receive food stamps at the same level they were receiving when their CalWORKs stopped.

If a household's income goes down, then they can reapply to have their food stamps readjusted.

The Budget bill, AB 1765, contains language requesting enough child support administrative law judges to assure that child support fair hearings are conducted in a timely fashion as required by state law. Currently, hearings are backed up for months.

Timely hearings still may be a litigation issue for 2003-2004. Similar language was contained in the budget last year, but additional judges were not hired.