

# Welfare group sues governor

SACRAMENTO UNION CAPITOL BUREAU

A welfare rights organization has filed suit in the U.S. Court of Appeal in San Francisco to challenge the right of Gov. Deukmejian to blue-pencil certain items from a non-appropriation bill.

The Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations said the suit filed Friday stemmed from Deukmejian's blue-penciling of provisions of SB1379, the budget cleanup bill.

The cleanup bill mandated, among other items, that Aid to Families with Dependent Children be paid from the date of application.

Currently, counties have up to 45 days to process paperwork on a new applicant, said organization spokesman Kevin M. Aslanian.

"Basically, the (state) Constitution says you can only veto items within a bill if they are for appropriations," Aslanian said.

Deukmejian blue-penciled the item because it would cost the state considerable money, as much as 45 days in benefits for each new applicant.

"Rarely, do you have any bill that doesn't involve some appropriation of funds," Aslanian said. "But you can't say 'I'm going to approve sections one, two and three and veto four' unless it has a specific appropriation."

The issue of Deukmejian's powers to veto language from a bill that does not carry appropriations has arisen before.

After Deukmejian vetoed certain language from the 1983-84 budget bill, Democrats threatened to go to court but never followed through.

The Democrats during 1983-84 budget negotiations had inserted language in the cleanup bill to make it more difficult for Deukmejian to reduce favorite Democratic pro-

grams, such as the Coastal Commission and special education.

Deukmejian blue-penciled not only the funds but the restraining language.

Senate President Pro Tem David A. Roberti, D-Los Angeles, said the Democrats would challenge the governor in court but never did.

Aslanian said the current practice of some counties of waiting the full 45 days before granting benefits had forced some families to lose their homes or go without utilities.

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