



**Government Relations and Public  
Affairs Committee**

**Meeting Date:** 4/9/2018

**Agenda Item No.:** 2018-April-18.

**Subject:** Envision a Hunger-Free California Act of 2018 (Estimated time: 10 minutes)

**Information**

**Prepared by:** David Shabazian

**Approved by:** Erik Johnson

**Attachments:** Yes

**1. Issue:**

Assembly Bill (AB) 1952, Envision a Hunger-Free California Act of 2018, targets food insecurity in California by supporting efforts to alleviate hunger through identifying issues and barriers, educating decision makers, and funding food access projects.

**2. Recommendation:**

None. This item is for information only.

**3. Background/Analysis:**

SACOG staff was contacted by staff of the AB 1952 authors, Assembly Members Mayes and Steinorth, to answer questions about Rural-Urban Connections Strategy (RUCS) research on regional food systems and food hubs in particular. Food systems concepts from these studies have been incorporated into the bill, which offers strategies to reduce hunger and food insecurity. Assembly Members Arambula, Aguiar-Curry, Acosta, Baker, and Mathis, and Senators Weiner and Dodd are also included as authors.

**4. Discussion/Analysis:**

At the time of writing this staff report, the bill (current version included as Attachment A) is undergoing committee reviews and amendments. The basic concept of the bill is to establish criteria and require, by January 1, 2020, the State Department of Social Services, the State Department of Public Health, the State Department of Education, and the Department of Food and Agriculture, to develop a plan to end hunger. The plan would identify under-served communities (as defined by the USDA), barriers to food access, infrastructure to improve access, and funding to implement the plan. Total funding amounts have not been specified, but currently the bulk of the proposed 3-year funding would go to existing food assistance organizations and programs. There would also be funding to provide grants to assist in establishing food hubs in under-served communities.

SACOG staff will track this bill and will inform the committee if a recommendation to the SACOG board for support of this bill is merited.

## **5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:**

There is no fiscal impact at this time.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Description

Revised Attachment A - Assembly Bill

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 2, 2018

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 19, 2018

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2017–18 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1952**

---

---

**Introduced by Assembly Members Mayes, Arambula, and Steinorth**

**(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry)**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Acosta, Baker, and Mathis)**

**(Coauthors: Senators Dodd and Wiener)**

January 29, 2018

---

---

An act to add Section 10001.5 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to food access.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1952, as amended, Mayes. Social services: access to food.

Existing law provides for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), administered in California as CalFresh, under which each county distributes nutrition assistance benefits provided by the federal government to eligible households. Existing state law authorizes a county to deliver CalFresh benefits through the use of an electronic benefits transfer (EBT) acceptance system.

Existing law, until January 1, 2022, encourages the Regents of the University of California, ~~and~~ requires the Trustees of the California State ~~University~~ *University*, and *authorizes* the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, to designate as a “hunger-free campus” each of the institutions’ respective campuses that meet specified criteria, including having a campus employee designated to help ensure that students have the information they need to enroll in CalFresh.

AB 1952

— 2 —

This bill would require the State Department of Social Services, the State Department of Public Health, the State Department of Education, and the Department of Food and Agriculture, to develop a plan to end hunger. The bill would require the plan to be distributed to the Legislature no later than January 1, 2020, and would establish criteria for the plan, including that the plan *establish a budget of \$11,500,000, contingent upon an appropriation in the annual Budget Act or other measure, for the Department of Food and Agriculture to support local food hub efforts. The bill would also require the plan to request the Regents of the University of California, and direct the Trustees of the California State University and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, to develop systems that allow EBT cards to be used on their respective campuses, and present a report to the Assembly Select Committee on Campus Climate on the progress that has been made, by March 1, 2019.*

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. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the
- 2 Envision a Hunger-Free California Act of 2018.
- 3 SEC. 2. The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of the
- 4 following:
  - 5 (a) Access to adequate, nutritious food benefits the health and
  - 6 welfare of all Californians at every income level.
  - 7 (b) ~~California produces about 25 percent of the world's food,~~
  - 8 *Over one-third of the vegetables and two-thirds of the fruits and*
  - 9 *nuts grown in the United States come from California, but in many*
  - 10 *communities throughout the state there is limited access to quality*
  - 11 *food, which negatively affects those living at or near the poverty*
  - 12 *line, cash-poor college graduates, working families, single parents,*
  - 13 *and disadvantaged communities.*
  - 14 (c) California's diverse geography and demographics
  - 15 unfortunately increase the likelihood of food deserts, as defined
  - 16 by the United States Department of Food and Agriculture, that
  - 17 limit food access for hundreds of thousands of California residents,
  - 18 and this results in poor health outcomes.

1 (d) High-cost and congested areas of the state also experience  
2 limited access to food and often provide few opportunities for food  
3 businesses to relocate to those “food-poor” areas.

4 (e) California should take steps to ensure access to adequate,  
5 nutritious food in all communities across the state.

6 (f) The food insecurity rate is the percentage of a state’s  
7 population that experience limited or uncertain access to adequate  
8 healthy food at some point during the year. People who experience  
9 food insecurity often have to reduce the quality or variety of their  
10 diet, and sometimes experience hunger. California’s food insecurity  
11 rate is 12.5 percent.

12 (g) Food insecurity is primarily a symptom of poverty, and  
13 poverty is substantially higher among Latinos and other  
14 communities of color.

15 (h) Research in child brain development has shown that even  
16 one experience of hunger as a child can impact the health and  
17 mental well-being of a person into their adult years. Research has  
18 similarly demonstrated the long-term academic and economic  
19 consequences of how hunger limits a person’s life chances.

20 (i) Hunger, food ~~insecurity~~ *insecurity*, and lack of healthy food  
21 choices contribute to our state’s high childhood obesity rate.  
22 California’s childhood obesity rate is 16.6 percent for children  
23 who are two to four years of age, inclusive, and are beneficiaries  
24 of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants,  
25 and Children, also known as WIC. The obesity rate is 31.2 percent  
26 for children in California who are 10 to 17 years of age, inclusive,  
27 and the current obesity rate for high school pupils in California is  
28 13.9 percent.

29 (j) Lack of adequate healthy food options increases the  
30 likelihood and impact of diabetes and prediabetes. Care and  
31 treatment cost an estimated \$37.1 billion in California each year  
32 and affect almost 15 million Californians, limiting their life  
33 possibilities.

34 (k) The Legislature is calling on all partners to make eradication  
35 of hunger and food insecurity in our bountiful state a priority and  
36 work with us to collectively envision and enact a future without  
37 hunger.

38 (l) The Legislature resolves to support a process by which all  
39 food system stakeholders will be engaged and collaborate at the  
40 local, regional, and state levels to remove barriers to adequate,

1 nutritious food choices and ensure that a vibrant and sustainable  
2 food system is available across all communities statewide.

3 SEC. 3. Section 10001.5 is added to the Welfare and  
4 Institutions Code, to read:

5 10001.5. The department, the State Department of Public  
6 Health, the State Department of Education, and the Department  
7 of Food and Agriculture, in consultation with a robust stakeholder  
8 group, shall jointly develop a plan to end hunger. The plan shall  
9 be distributed to the Legislature no later than January 1, 2020, in  
10 accordance with Section 9795 of the Government Code. The plan  
11 shall, at a minimum, do all of the following:

12 (a) Identify food deserts, as defined by the United States  
13 Department of Agriculture, and make maps of food deserts  
14 available online.

15 (b) Identify barriers in bringing retailers to certain locations,  
16 such as those in food deserts. These barriers may include, but are  
17 not limited to, certain city zoning ordinances, restrictive covenants,  
18 the requirements imposed by the California Environmental Quality  
19 Act (CEQA) process, the limitations of the public transportation  
20 system, and other restrictions imposed in order to protect public  
21 safety.

22 (c) Identify infrastructure needs to develop food hubs and  
23 consult with the Department of General Services in order to  
24 conduct an inventory of state-owned property that would be  
25 suitable for food hub locations.

26 (d) Explore methods to use new and existing resources to  
27 develop a food hub infrastructure and to utilize county fairgrounds  
28 as food hub locations.

29 (e) Establish a budget of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars (\$\_\_\_\_\_); *eleven million*  
30 *five hundred thousand dollars (\$11,500,000)* contingent on an  
31 appropriation in the annual Budget Act or another measure, for  
32 the Department of Food and Agriculture to identify grant  
33 opportunities, with a priority given to regional planning connection  
34 strategy models between rural and urban areas demonstrating  
35 economic development, job benefits, and greenhouse gas emission  
36 reductions. The Department of Food and Agriculture is authorized  
37 to use these funds to support other local food hub efforts, taking  
38 into consideration the need in the community and geographic  
39 diversity.

- 1 (f) Identify and facilitate stakeholder engagement, including  
2 representatives from impacted communities.
- 3 (g) Make recommendations for improving food access, including  
4 funding.
- 5 (h) Include a plan, which shall be presented to the director by  
6 May 1, 2019, to encourage the use of an electronic benefits transfer  
7 (EBT) system at farmers' markets and retailers in a food desert,  
8 or *at* a retailer that can ship to a food desert, for the purchase of  
9 fruits and vegetables.
- 10 (i) Include a plan, which shall be presented to the Legislature  
11 by May 1, 2019, for statewide universal school feeding programs,  
12 prioritizing schools with the neediest populations, including a  
13 summer lunch EBT program serving children in food deserts who  
14 cannot access feeding sites in the event the federal government  
15 does not act. The plan shall be submitted in compliance with  
16 Section 9795 of the Government Code. The plan shall identify a  
17 system for measuring outcomes that include, but are not limited  
18 to, all of the following:
- 19 (1) Increased time spent in school through enrollment,  
20 attendance, and reduced dropout rates.
- 21 (2) Increased cognition and improved learning.
- 22 (3) Improved healthcare outcomes and fewer days of school  
23 missed due to illness.
- 24 (j) (1) Request the Regents of the University of California, and  
25 direct the Trustees of the California State University and the Board  
26 of Governors of the California Community Colleges, to develop  
27 systems that allow EBT cards to be used on their respective  
28 campuses, and prepare and present to the Assembly Select  
29 Committee on Campus Climate a report on the progress that has  
30 been made, by March 1, 2019.
- 31 (2) The requirement to submit a report under this subdivision  
32 shall be inoperative on January 1, 2023.

O