



SACOG Board of Directors

Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Meeting Date: 5/17/2018
Agenda Item No.: 2018-May-6.

Subject: Support Assembly Bill 1952: Social Services - Access to Food (Est. time: 0 minutes)

Consent

Prepared by: Christina Lokke

Approved by: James Corless

Attachments: Yes

1. Issue:

Should the SACOG take a position on Assembly Bill (AB) 1952 (Mayes, Arambula, and Steinorth)?

2. Recommendation:

The Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee recommends that the Board take a position to Support AB 1952 (Mayes, Arambula, and Steinorth).

3. Background/Analysis:

At the April 2018, Board of Directors meeting staff provided a report on AB 1952, which establishes the Envision a Hunger-Free California Act (EHF Act) of 2018. The EHF Act requires the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Department of Public Health (DPH), Department of Education (CDE), and the Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to develop a plan to end hunger. At the time of the presentation, the bill was undergoing amendments. While the bill could still be amended as it moves through the legislative process, staff recommends taking a Support position on AB 1952.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

AB 1952 requires DSS, DPH, CDE, and CDFA to consult with a stakeholder group to jointly develop a plan to end hunger. This plan must be distributed to the Legislature no later than January 1, 2020. The plan must do all of the following:

- Identify food deserts, as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture, and make maps of food deserts available online.
- Identify barriers in bringing retailers to certain locations, such as those in food deserts.
- Identify infrastructure needs to develop food hubs and consult with the Department

of General Services in order to conduct an inventory of state-owned property that would be suitable for food hub locations.

- Explore methods to use new and existing resources to develop a food hub infrastructure and to utilize county fairgrounds as food hub locations.
- Establish a budget of \$11.5 million, contingent on legislative appropriation, for CDFA to identify grant opportunities, with a priority given to regional planning connection strategy models between rural and urban areas demonstrating economic development, job benefits, and greenhouse gas emission reductions. This money can also support other local food hub efforts, taking into consideration the need in the community and geographic diversity.
- Identify and facilitate stakeholder engagement, including representatives from impacted communities.
- Make recommendations for improving food access, including funding.
- Include a plan to encourage the use of an electronic benefits transfer (EBT) system at farmers' markets and retailers in a food desert, or at a retailer that can ship to a food desert, for the purchase of fruits and vegetables.
- Include a plan for statewide universal school feeding programs.
- 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.

The bill is co-sponsored by the California Association of Food Banks, the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, and the Western Center on Law and Poverty. It is supported by numerous organizations, including the California Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the California Medical Association, Children's Defense Fund, California, and the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and has no registered opposition. It passed both the Assembly Human Services Committee and the Assembly Committee on Agriculture.

Attachment A is the current text of the bill.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

This item has no direct fiscal impact.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

Attachment A - AB 1952

This staff report aligns with the following SACOG Work Plan Goals:

#3 - Assist Local Economic Development Strategies

#8 - Build out our Council of Governments Functions

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 12, 2018

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, requires the Trustees of the California State 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.

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~~ July 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) Over one-third of the vegetables and two-thirds of the fruits
 - 8 and nuts grown in the United States come from California, but in
 - 9 many communities throughout the state there is limited access to
 - 10 quality food, which negatively affects those living at or near the
 - 11 poverty line, cash-poor college graduates, working families, single
 - 12 parents, and disadvantaged communities.
 - 13 (c) California's diverse geography and demographics
 - 14 unfortunately increase the likelihood of food deserts, as defined
 - 15 by the United States Department of Food and Agriculture, that
 - 16 limit food access for hundreds of thousands of California residents,
 - 17 and this results in poor health outcomes.
 - 18 (d) High-cost and congested areas of the state also experience
 - 19 limited access to food and often provide few opportunities for food
 - 20 businesses to relocate to those "food-poor" areas.

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

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

9 (g) Food insecurity is primarily a symptom of poverty, and
10 poverty is substantially higher among Latinos and other
11 communities of color.

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

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

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

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

35 (l) The Legislature resolves to support a process by which all
36 food system stakeholders will be engaged and collaborate at the
37 local, regional, and state levels to remove barriers to adequate,
38 nutritious food choices and ensure that a vibrant and sustainable
39 food system is available across all communities statewide.

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

3 10001.5. The department, the State Department of Public
4 Health, the State Department of Education, and the Department
5 of Food and Agriculture, in consultation with a robust stakeholder
6 group, shall jointly develop a plan to end hunger. The plan shall
7 be distributed to the Legislature no later than January 1, 2020, in
8 accordance with Section 9795 of the Government Code. The plan
9 shall, at a minimum, do all of the following:

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

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

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

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

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

37 (f) Identify and facilitate stakeholder engagement, including
38 representatives from impacted communities.

39 (g) Make recommendations for improving food access, including
40 funding.

1 (h) Include a plan, which shall be presented to the ~~director by~~
2 ~~May~~ *director, the Director of Public Health, the Superintendent*
3 *of Public Instruction, and the Secretary of Food and Agriculture*
4 *by July 1, 2019*, to encourage the use of an electronic benefits
5 transfer (EBT) system at farmers' markets and retailers in a food
6 desert, or at a retailer that can ship to a food desert, for the purchase
7 of fruits and vegetables.

8 (i) Include a plan, which shall be presented to the Legislature
9 ~~by May~~ *July 1, 2019*, for statewide universal school feeding
10 programs, prioritizing schools with the neediest populations,
11 including a summer lunch EBT program serving children in food
12 deserts who cannot access feeding sites in the event the federal
13 government does not act. The plan shall be submitted in compliance
14 with Section 9795 of the Government Code. The plan shall identify
15 a system for measuring outcomes that include, but are not limited
16 to, all of the following:

17 (1) Increased time spent in school through enrollment,
18 attendance, and reduced dropout rates.

19 (2) Increased cognition and improved learning.

20 (3) Improved healthcare outcomes and fewer days of school
21 missed due to illness.

22 (j) (1) Request the Regents of the University of California, and
23 direct the Trustees of the California State University and the Board
24 of Governors of the California Community Colleges, to develop
25 systems that allow EBT cards to be used on their respective
26 campuses, and prepare and present to the Assembly Select
27 Committee on Campus Climate a report on the progress that has
28 been made, ~~by March~~ *July 1, 2019*.

29 (2) The requirement to submit a report under this subdivision
30 shall be inoperative on January 1, 2023.

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