

Date of Hearing: March 25, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Alex Lee, Chair
AB 936 (Lee) – As Introduced February 19, 2025

SUBJECT: CalFresh Fruit and Vegetable Supplemental Benefits Program

SUMMARY: Makes the California Fruit and Vegetable Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Pilot Project permanent and renames the program the CalFresh Fruit and Vegetable Supplemental Benefits Program. Requires the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to prioritize retail locations that serve geographically and culturally diverse areas as well as high-CalFresh-use areas. Specifies funding allocations for authorized retailers and data reporting requirements, and removes the program’s sunset date. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Makes the California Fruit and Vegetable EBT Pilot Project permanent and renames the program the CalFresh Fruit and Vegetable Supplemental Benefits Program.
- 2) Requires CDSS to provide grants to support the supplemental benefits mechanism in existing retail settings.
- 3) Removes the requirement that a minimum of three grants are to be awarded to nonprofit organizations or government agencies and, instead, allows any number of grants to be awarded.
- 4) Strikes the requirement that at least one of the grants provide the ability to test the supplemental benefit mechanism at farmers’ markets. Further strikes the option that a farmers’ market that operates a centralized point of sale terminal and a scrip system and that also participates as a pilot project pursuant to this section disburse scripts for supplemental benefits and for fresh fruits and vegetables concurrently.
- 5) Strikes the requirement that grant applicants must demonstrate the ability to provide the minimum data deemed necessary for CDSS to successfully evaluate the pilot project.
- 6) Strikes the requirement that grantees provide evaluation data to CDSS.
- 7) Requires CDSS, when grantees propose adding additional retail locations into the program, to prioritize those retail locations that meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - a) Offer a broad variety, and high quality, of fresh fruits and vegetables;
 - b) Increase the geographic diversity of the program’s reach;
 - c) Attract high numbers of CalFresh customers in their area;
 - d) Are operated by an authorized retailer who already is offering the program at some other locations;
 - e) Ability of the retailer to offer the program quickly;

- f) The inclusion of the retailer will lay the foundation, through technology development, for future expansion within the retail chain or for future expansion with similar retailers who use identical technology; and,
 - g) Increase the diversity of retailers to better reflect the cultural diversity of produce preferences among California's population.
- 8) Requires CDSS, upon any appropriation by the Legislature for purposes of this section, to allocate funds as follows:
- a) First, a level of funding sufficient to cover CDSS' anticipated administrative costs and anticipated grantee administrative costs;
 - b) Second, provide "baseline funding", at a level of funding sufficient to cover the cost of the anticipated supplemental benefits that will be earned by CalFresh beneficiaries over the course of 12 months at all previously participating authorized retailers, assuming those retailers choose to continue to participate in the program;
 - c) Third, for any remaining funding, requires CDSS to allocate the funds as following:
 - i) At least 50% to cover the cost of the anticipated supplemental benefits that would be earned by CalFresh beneficiaries shopping at authorized retailers that have 50 or fewer retail locations in California, including all retail locations under common ownership, and that redeem \$50 million or less in CalFresh benefits annually across all retail locations under common ownership in California;
 - Allows CDSS to authorize a grantee to use funding to offset the cost of technological upgrades required to offer supplemental benefits for authorized retailers described in i) above. Prohibits the total amount of funding grantees may receive to support authorized retailer technological upgrade in a fiscal year pursuant to this clause to exceed \$1 million.
 - ii) The remaining amount after allocation pursuant to i) above to cover the cost of the anticipated supplemental benefits that would be earned by CalFresh beneficiaries shopping at authorized retailers that have more than 50 retail locations in California, including all retail locations under common ownership, or that redeem more than \$50 million in CalFresh benefits annually across all retail locations under common ownership in California;
 - Specifies that CDSS shall not provide grants to grantees to support authorized retailers described in ii) above to offset the cost of technological upgrades required to offer supplemental benefits.
- 9) Permits CDSS, notwithstanding 8) above, to relocate funds initially allocated in 8) above if CDSS determines that there is a lack of acceptable applications for a particular category of authorized retailers and there is unlikely to be sufficient acceptable applications for a particular category of authorized retailers in a subsequent round of applications. Further requires, if CDSS relocates funds, to maximize the number of retail locations offering supplemental benefits or the number of CalFresh recipients who would have access to supplemental benefits.

- 10) Requires CDSS to quarterly publish, on its internet website, data on program utilization, including, but not limited to, the number of CalFresh households and individuals who have received supplemental benefits, the average amount of supplemental benefits earned by each CalFresh household each month, and the amount of supplemental benefits earned at each category of authorized retailers.
- 11) Requires CDSS to evaluate the pilot projects that operated pursuant to this bill between February 1, 2023 and January 31, 2025 and make recommendations to further refine and expand the supplemental benefits mechanism.
- 12) Requires CDSS to seek any necessary federal approvals to maintain the program.

EXISTING LAW:

State law:

- 1) Establishes the CalFresh program for the administration of federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to eligible individuals. Provides program requirements and eligibility, as specified. (Welfare and Institutions Code [WIC] § 18900 *et seq.*)
- 2) Establishes the EBT Act and defines the EBT system as the program designed to provide benefits to those eligible to receive public assistance benefits such as the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids and CalFresh programs. (WIC § 10065 *et seq.*)
- 3) Makes legislative findings and declarations related to EBT, including that one of the primary goals of EBT is to reduce the cost of delivering benefits to recipients, to ensure that all systems within California are compatible, and to afford public social services recipients the opportunity to better and more securely manage their financial affairs. (WIC § 10065(b))
- 4) Establishes the California Fruit and Vegetable EBT Pilot Project, requiring CDSS, in consultation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), county CalFresh administrators, and stakeholders, to include within the EBT system a supplemental benefits mechanism that allows an authorized retailer to deliver and redeem supplemental benefits, which must be compatible with operational procedures at farmers' markets with centralized point-of-sale (POS) terminals and at grocery stores with integrated POS terminals, as specified. (WIC § 10072.3(c))
- 5) Requires CDSS to provide grants for pilot projects to implement and test the supplemental benefits mechanism in existing retail settings. Provides that the goal of the pilot project is to develop and refine a scalable model for increasing the purchase and consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables by delivering to retailers of various types, sizes, and locations in the future. (WIC § 10072.3(e))
- 6) Requires CDSS to evaluate the pilot projects and make recommendations to further refine and expand the supplemental benefits mechanism, as well as for further modifications that would make the mechanism easier for CalFresh recipients to use, for a variety of authorized retailer types to adopt, and for CDSS to administer, and to submit a report to the Legislature by July 1, 2025. Requires the evaluation to examine the efficacy of supplemental benefits accrual, delivery, and redemption from the perspective of CalFresh recipients, participating retailers, and state administrators. (WIC § 10072.3(f)(1))

- 7) Requires CDSS to submit a report to the Legislature by July 1, 2025, on the timing and steps that would be necessary to transition the California Fruit and Vegetable Pilot Project to a supplemental benefits program that is fully state-managed, without grantee intermediaries. (WIC § 10072.3(f)(2)(A))
- 8) Requires the report in 7) above to include the results of the evaluation required in 6) above and scoping the staff or other resources and timelines for all of the following:
 - a) Engaging with and enrolling interested retailers directly on an ongoing basis, if the state makes additional funding for further expansion;
 - b) The staffing and technical resources needed by the Office of Technology and Solutions Integration to certify new retailers’ EBT systems when they are onboarded into the program;
 - c) Resources needed to align the EBT system and the California Statewide Automated Welfare System to fully automate financial reconciliation of fruit and vegetable supplemental benefits as the program expands; and,
 - d) Expansion to include online CalFresh transactions and grocery delivery services. (WIC § 10072.3(3)(B))

Federal law:

- 9) Establishes SNAP, pursuant to the Food Stamps Act of 1964, to provide benefits to families and individuals meeting specified criteria. (7 United States Code § 2011 *et seq.*)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown, this bill has not been analyzed by a fiscal committee.

COMMENTS:

Background: *Food Insecurity.* The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which monitors food insecurity and oversees the nation’s largest food aid programs, defines food security as “access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life.” It categorizes food security into four levels:

Ranges of Food Security

	LEVEL OF SECURITY	DEFINITION
Food Secure	High Food Security	Households had no problems, or anxiety about, consistently accessing adequate food
	Marginal Food Security	Households had problems or anxiety at times about accessing adequate food, but the quality, variety and quantity of food were not substantially reduced
Food Insecure	Low Food Security	Households reduced the quality, variety and desirability of their diets, but the quantity of food intake and normal eating patterns were not substantially disrupted
	Very Low Food Security	At times during the year, eating patterns of one or more household members were disrupted and food intake reduced because the household lacked money or other resources for food

Sources: Feeding America, What is Food Insecurity? <https://hungerandhealth.feedingamerica.org/understand-food-insecurity/> (Accessed March 1, 2020)

While California declared food as a human right in 2023 and produces nearly half of the nation's fruits and vegetables, data from the United State (U.S.) Census Household Pulse Survey shows that as of September 2024, 22% of California households are food insecure and 27% of households with children are food insecure, with deep disparities for Black, Latino, and Native households. Additionally, most U.S. adults do not consume the recommend quantities of fruits and vegetables, despite evidence linking fruit and vegetable consumption to improved health and reduced risk of chronic diseases. Disparities in fruit and vegetable consumption persist, as Americans with lower incomes consume fewer fruits and vegetables than those with higher incomes. Factors contributing to food insecurity and lower fruit and vegetable consumption include socioeconomic disparities and geographic barriers, among other factors.

Socioeconomic factors play a significant role in driving food insecurity and low produce intake, particularly among low-income households. According to the latest available Census data, in 2023, 18.9% of Californians – approximately 7.3 million people – were living in poverty, a 2.5% increase from 2022 and a 7.9% increase from 2021. Inflation has further strained household budgets, with the cost of essential goods rising 22% since 2021 while wages have not kept pace with inflation. Those living at or below the poverty line are most negatively impacted by a hike in food prices and high cost of living because these households spend 83% of their income on necessities like food, housing, transportation, and healthcare, leaving little room for nutritious choices. In 2018-19, these households spent \$26,000 annually on basic needs; by 2024, that figure had risen to over \$32,000. As a result, many families are forced to rely on cheaper, processed foods, increasing the risk of diet-related health issues. High living costs, especially in urban areas like Los Angeles and San Francisco, further exacerbate this challenge. Food insecurity can pose difficult trade-offs between buying healthy food and meeting other basic needs like housing, transportation, utilities, and medicine.

Food Deserts and Food Swamps. Food insecurity and low produce intake is not just about affordability – it is also about physical access to healthy food. Many low-income urban and rural areas lack full-service grocery stores, leaving residents dependent on fast food chains, convenience stores, and gas stations for their daily nutrition. The USDA defines “food deserts” as areas where urban residents live more than one mile from a supermarket and rural residents live more than ten miles away. Nearly one million Californians live in these areas, with 45% of them being low-income. This lack of access forces households to rely on highly processed, high-calorie, and low-nutrient foods with long shelf lives, increasing the risk of diet-related diseases. “Food swamps” are neighborhoods oversaturated with fast food and convenience stores, which also lead to worse health outcomes. Residents in these areas often pay higher prices for groceries at independent stores, where fresh produce is scarce and costly, while fast food remains an affordable alternative. Limited public transportation further restricts access, especially for those without personal vehicles, who do not live close to public transit, or who travel by foot. Nearly one million Californians – 45% of whom are low-income – lack nearby supermarkets, making it harder to obtain fresh, nutritious food.

A lack of adequate food can have long-term physical health consequences across the lifespan. During pregnancy, it can lead to poor birth outcomes, impacting a child's physical and cognitive development. Young children with inadequate or interrupted food intake are at a higher risk of iron deficiency, respiratory illnesses, infections, and developmental delays. In school-aged children, food insecurity is associated with poor academic performance, attention difficulties, and behavioral issues. In adolescence, food insecurity is associated with having many sexual partners, drug and alcohol abuse, greater exposure to violence, high-risk pregnancy, and suicide

ideation. Long-term, these disadvantages contribute to intergenerational cycles of poverty and food insecurity. In adulthood, food insecurity increases the risk of chronic, diet-related diseases such as diabetes, obesity, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and certain cancers due to poor nutrition and limited access to healthcare. Beyond physical health, the emotional and psychological stress of uncertain food access causes anxiety, depression, and social isolation.

CalFresh. SNAP (formerly known as the Food Stamp Program) is the largest federal food safety-net program that serves as the first line of defense against hunger and food insecurity for low-income households. In California, SNAP funds are administered through the CalFresh program. Overseen by CDSS and administered locally by county human services departments, CalFresh serves a large and diverse caseload, with substantial shares comprising low-income working families with children, elderly and disabled people, and very low-income individuals with substantial barriers to employment. Participants use EBT cards to purchase eligible food items such as fruits and vegetables, meat, dairy products, and seeds and plants that produce food at authorized retailers, including grocery stores, supermarkets, and farmers' markets. Individuals can complete the CalFresh application online, over the phone, in-person at their county CalFresh office, or through the mail.

The USDA establishes the gross and net income requirements for CalFresh eligibility, limiting California's flexibility in setting its own criteria. If a family passes the gross income test, the net income test is computed, and the amount is determined by deducting certain income from a household's gross income. Currently, the maximum allowable gross income is 200% of the federal poverty level, although households with elderly members or members with disabilities are not subject to gross income criteria. Effective October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025, the maximum annual gross income for a household size of three is \$33,576. Certain incomes, such as in-kind benefits, employer-provided housing, and vendor payments, among others, are exempt when calculating eligibility.

CalFresh plays a critical role in reducing poverty and food insecurity in California. In early 2023, participation in CalFresh helped keep approximately 1.1 million Californians out of poverty. Research also shows that SNAP reduces overall food insecurity by about 20% and reduces food insecurity among children by approximately 33%. According to the Legislative Analyst's Office, about 5.3 million Californians received a total of \$12 billion in CalFresh benefits, all of it federally funded, for an average monthly benefit of about \$189 per recipient in 2023-24.

In addition to addressing poverty and food insecurity, CalFresh participation could significantly boost California's economy. According to the USDA, every \$1 in federally funded CalFresh benefit generates approximately \$1.50 in economic activity. Furthermore, every \$1 billion in benefits leads to the creation of over 10,000 jobs across various sectors, including farm labor, transportation, and retail. This means that the state could potentially receive \$1.8 billion annually in federally funded food benefits, resulting in over \$3.3 billion in total annual economic activity. On the flip side, hunger costs the U.S. economy at least \$77.5 billion in healthcare costs every year through higher rates of chronic disease, higher utilization of healthcare services, and more frequent hospitalizations and use of nursing homes.

CalFresh Fruit and Vegetable EBT Pilot Project. The pilot allowed CalFresh recipients to double their purchasing power when buying fruits and vegetables at participating retailers. Under the program, recipients received up to \$60 per month in additional food assistance – for every \$1

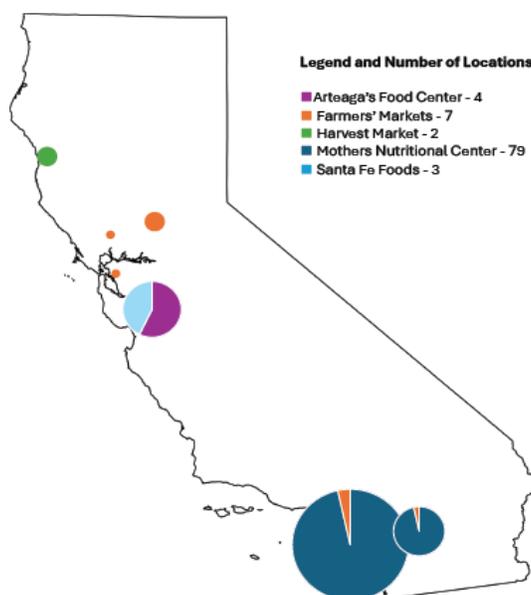
spent on fresh produce, participants received \$1 back on their EBT card to be used for any CalFresh-eligible food items.

Established in 2018 through AB 1811 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 35, Statutes of 2018, the pilot aimed to increase the purchase and consumption of California-grown fresh fruits and vegetables among CalFresh beneficiaries while developing a scalable model for long-term implementation. To achieve this, the pilot integrated a supplementary benefits mechanism directly into the state's EBT system. This allowed participating retailers to automatically distribute and redeem additional benefits when recipients purchased produce. The pilot requires CDSS to evaluate the program's effectiveness and provide a scoping plan to transition the pilot to a permanent program, and report findings to the Legislature by July 1, 2025.

Initially funded with \$9 million in 2018, the program received an additional \$9.65 million in 2023. The pilot officially launched on February 20, 2023, but due to high demand, funds were fully utilized by April 2024, causing the program to pause. Another \$10 million was allocated in the 2024 Budget Act, allowing it to restart in October 2024, but those funds ran out by January 31, 2025, again forcing the program to cease. The pilot demonstrated significant benefits for low-income families and food producers. In its final full month of operation:

- 92 grocery stores and one farmers markets participated statewide.
- \$3.3 million in fruit and vegetable rebates were provided.
- More than 67,000 CalFresh households across 42 counties benefitted, supporting an estimated 116,000 individuals.

Appendix A: Retail Locations for CalFresh Fruit and Vegetable EBT Pilot Project



A 2024 research study examined shopper perceptions of the pilot and found several benefits. Shoppers valued the ability to receive their full benefit in a single monthly visit, the higher

benefit amounts, increased purchasing power for produce, and the flexibility to use the benefit on any SNAP-eligible item at any SNAP retailer. They also preferred receiving the supplemental benefit as an electronic rebate rather than physical scrip, which is commonly used in farmers' market nutrition incentive programs.

Farmers' market staff had mixed experiences. Some reported challenges such as long lines, technology issues, difficulty understanding the pilot, and increased stress and workload. However, they also appreciated being able to provide shoppers with more funds for produce and felt the program attracted new customers to the market. The study concluded that an expansion of the pilot would primarily benefit SNAP participants.

Additional research has consistently shown that other similar programs, such as Double Up Food Bucks and Más Fresco, among others, effectively reduce hunger, improve health outcomes, and boost revenue for agricultural communities. As such, financial incentives are a promising strategy for increasing fruit and vegetable intake among CalFresh recipients.

Despite the pilot's success, the lack of continued funding has limited access to fresh fruits and vegetables for thousands of low-income families and reduced economic support for California farmers. Advocates argue that the start-and-stop nature of the program undermines its effectiveness, creating instability for CalFresh families relying on these benefits, increased administrative burden on CDSS and reduced retailer participation, making it harder to sustain the program long-term.

Other States' SNAP Incentives. Several states have piloted or are currently piloting programs to encourage SNAP participants to purchase more fruits and vegetables, including, but not limited to:

- *Massachusetts* launched USDA's Healthy Incentives Pilot (HIP) in November 2011, which provided SNAP recipients with a 30-cent rebate per dollar spend on select fruits and vegetables, which led to a 25% increase in consumption of the targeted foods. Citing the precedent of the HIP, the USDA has funded the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive grant program, which offers grants for programs to increase fruit and vegetable consumption among SNAP participants through point-of-purchase incentives.
- *Washington* launched SNAP Produce Rewards in June 2021, automatically enrolling SNAP participants to receive up to \$50 per month on eligible fruits and vegetables.
- *Rhode Island* launched Eat Well, Be Well on January 23, 2024, offering SNAP participants 50 cents back for every \$1 spent on qualifying fruits and vegetables, up to \$25 per month. The program, available at Stop & Shop and Walmart, automatically loads rewards onto EBT cards and allows nine months for spending. It was funded through an \$11.5 million state appropriation.
- *Colorado* launched the SNAP Produce Bonus Program on August 1, 2024, automatically enrolling participants to receive a dollar-for-dollar match (up to \$20 per transaction and \$60 per month) on eligible produce purchases. The \$7.9 million USDA-funded HIP pilot allows bonus funds to be used for any SNAP-eligible items at participating retailers.

- *Louisiana* launched its USDA-HIP in August 2024, with a \$9.5 million federal allocation to provide SNAP recipients with a 30-cent rebate per dollar spend on select fruits and vegetable, up to \$25 per month.

The USDA's HIP Evaluation Report found that HIP participants consumed almost 1/4 more fruits and vegetables per day compared to non-participants. Additionally, HIP households spent more of their SNAP benefits on fruits and vegetables at participating supermarkets and superstores, averaging \$12.05 per month compared to \$10.86 for non-HIP households – an increase of \$1.19 or 11%. HIP households also reported higher overall spending on fruits and vegetables than non-HIP households.

Governor's Executive Order (EO). On January 3, 2025, the Governor issued an executive order directing state agencies, including CDSS, to explore policies and recommend potential actions that limit the harms of ultra-processed foods and unhealthy food ingredients, as well as incentivize the purchase of fresh fruit and vegetables. The EO further underscores the importance of sustained investment in fresh food access programs as a strategy to improve public health and reduce food insecurity across California.

This bill aims to transition the pilot to a permanent statewide supplemental benefits program and establishes a funding allocation framework. It sets a baseline funding level based on the anticipated cost of operating the program at current retailers for 12 months. If CDSS receives funding beyond this baseline, *the bill* requires CDSS to allocate the excess between small and large retailers to ensure small retailers are not competing with large ones for participation. *This bill* also provides criteria for prioritizing new retailer selection.

Additionally, *this bill* removes the requirement for CDSS to contract with a minimum number of grantee intermediaries, allowing flexibility in determining the necessary number of grantees. *This bill* also eliminates the requirement that farmers' markets must be included, as advocates have contended implementation challenges in that setting. As such, farmers' markets can still participate; however, *this bill* allows the program to proceed even if none opt in. Furthermore, CDSS will no longer be required to conduct additional evaluations and will instead be responsible for publicly sharing program utilization data. Lastly, *this bill* removes the program's sunset date, making the program permanent.

Author's Statement: According to the Author, "There's nothing more essential in people's lives than fresh, nutritious food. But millions of Californians are struggling to afford healthy meals. The CalFresh Fruit and Vegetable EBT Pilot Project has been highly effective in helping families stretch their food dollars, and I will keep fighting to scale this program up and down the state.

"The CalFresh Fruit and Vegetable EBT Pilot provided up to \$60 each month in nutrition incentives. For every \$1 of CalFresh benefits spent on any fresh fruits and vegetables at a participating retailer, CalFresh recipients got \$1 back on their EBT card to spend on any CalFresh-eligible food for up to \$60/month, serving as a critical source of supplemental benefits for families. This bill will transition the pilot into a permanent statewide program, with the goal of expanding the program to more retail locations and serving more CalFresh households."

Equity Implications: With approximately 1 in 5 Californians reporting food insecurity, this program has the potential to alleviate hardship and increase access to healthy food for low-income Californians. Lack of access to healthy foods disproportionately impacts vulnerable

communities, particularly among low-income individuals, pregnant women, households with children, Black and Latino populations, immigrants, people who are disabled, and the elderly who often face greater food hardship. According to 2024 data from the U.S. Census Household Pulse Survey, 33% of Hispanic/Latino and 43% Black households with children respectively are food insecure. A 2019 study found even greater disparities among Native American households at 92%, according to a study of four tribes across Northern California. These stark disparities in food access is largely a result of systemic injustices, including supermarket redlining where land-use policies have facilitated the development of larger supermarkets in predominately wealthy and suburban neighborhoods and away from low-income neighborhoods, leading to food deserts.

This bill aims to increase access to healthy foods by lowering the cost of healthy foods through rebates, encouraging families to shift their consumption toward these more affordable options. By transiting this pilot to a permanent statewide program and ensuring ongoing access to fresh, affordable produce, this bill could improve health outcomes and economic stability for low-income families.

RELATED AND PRIOR LEGISLATION:

AB 1961 (Wicks) of 2024, subject to appropriation from the Legislature, would have required the Strategic Growth Council, in consultation with specified agencies, to convene the End Hunger in California Master Plan Task Force to develop strategies for ensuring access to healthy and culturally relevant food for all Californians. *AB 1961 was vetoed by Governor Newsom.*

AB 3229 (Lee), Chapter 916, Statutes of 2024, revised and combined reporting deadlines for two Legislative reports on the California Fruit and Vegetable EBT Pilot Project.

AB 120 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 43, Statutes of 2023, extended the deadline for CDSS to submit a report, including the results of the evaluation of the California Fruit and Vegetable EBT Pilot Project from January 1, 2022, to September 1, 2025.

AB 605 (Arambula) of 2023, would have established the California Fruit and Vegetable Supplemental Benefit Expansion Program and created the EBT Expansion Fund in the State Treasury; would have required CDSS to enroll authorized retailers to enable them to provide supplemental benefits to CalFresh recipients who purchase fresh fruits and vegetables, as specified. *AB 606 was held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.*

SB 628 (Hurtado), Chapter 879, Statutes of 2023, declared that it is the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to access sufficient, affordable, and healthy food and required all relevant state agencies to consider this policy when revising, adopting, or establishing policies, regulations, and grant criteria when those policies, regulations, and criteria are pertinent to the distribution of sufficient affordable food.

AB 2153 (Arambula) of 2022, would have established the California Fruit and Vegetable Supplemental Benefits Expansion Program and was substantially similar to this bill. *AB 2153 was held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.*

SB 907 (Pan), Chapter 605, Statutes of 2022, required CDSS and CDFA to establish a non-competitive grant program designed to expand the use of EBT acceptance systems at farmers' markets.

SB 108 (Hurtado) of 2021, would have declared that it is the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to access sufficient, affordable, and healthy food, and would have required state agencies to consider that policy as provided. *SB 108 was held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.*

AB 534 (Mayes) of 2019, would have established the Envision a Hunger-Free California Act of 2019 and would have required CDSS, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the California Department of Education, and CDFA to develop a plan to end hunger, which would have included the identification of barriers to food access. *AB 534 was held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.*

AB 1952 (Mayes) of 2018, would have established the Envision a Hunger-Free California Act of 2018 by requiring CDSS, CDPH, the California Department of Education, and CDFA to develop a plan to end hunger. *AB 1952 was held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.*

AB 1811 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 35, Statutes of 2018, see comments above.

SB 900 (Wiener) of 2018, would have established the California Fruit and Vegetable EBT Pilot Project to include within the EBT system a mechanism that would have enabled an authorized retailer to deliver and redeem supplemental CalFresh benefits. *SB 918 was set to be heard by this committee but the hearing was cancelled by the author.*

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Fullwell (UNREG) (Co-Sponsor)
Nourish California (Co-Sponsor)
Albertsons
Blue Zones Activate, Mead Valley
Blue Zones Project Coachella
Blue Zones Project Monterey County
Blue Zones Project Petaluma
Blue Zones Project Riverside
California Food and Farming Network
California Grocers Association
California OneCare
Ceres Community Project (UNREG)
Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations
Community Action Partnership of Orange County
County of Santa Clara
County Welfare Directors Association of California
Food Access LA
Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano
Glide
Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank
Lutheran Social Services of Northern California
Monterey County Farm Bureau
National Health Foundation

Second Harvest of Silicon Valley
The SF Market
Western Center on Law & Poverty, INC.
What We All Deserve (WWAD)

Opposition

None on file.

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