

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1731
Author: Wilson (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Caballero, Alvarado-Gil, Ashby, McNerney, Padilla

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Office of Farm to Fork: Healthy Food for California Public
Institutions Program

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires the Office of Farm to Fork (Office) within the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), upon appropriation by the Legislature, to establish the Healthy Food for California Public Institutions Program for the purpose of, among other initiatives, identifying vendors in California that have the capacity to provide healthy foods to California public institutions, as defined.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the Office within CDFA and requires the Office, to the extent that resources are available, to work with various entities, including, among others, the agricultural industry and other organizations involved in promoting food access, to increase the amount of agricultural products.

- 2) Establishes the Farm to Community Food Hubs Grant Program to provide competitive grants to organizations developing and expanding community food hubs in California.

This bill:

- 1) Defines:
 - a) “Local educational agency” to have the same meaning as defined in Section 49557.5 of the Education Code.
 - b) “Office” to mean the Office of Farm to Fork created pursuant to Section 49001.
 - c) “Program” to mean the Healthy Food for California Public Institutions Program established pursuant to Section 49028.
 - d) “Public institution” to mean any state, city, city and county, or county agency, including a public postsecondary educational institution and a local educational agency.
 - e) “Public postsecondary educational institution” to mean the California Community Colleges and the California State University, but not the University of California.
- 2) Requires the Office, upon appropriation, to implement initiatives including, but not limited to developing a list of approved vendors that public institutions can use to procure food products that are whole or minimally processed and are grown or produced in California using climate-smart agricultural practices and climate-smart agricultural production systems, as specified.
- 3) Requires the Office to establish an application process to approve vendors that meet all the following requirements:
 - a) The vendor sources and distributes food products that are whole or are minimally processed, and are grown or produced in California using climate-smart agriculture practices and climate-smart agriculture production systems.
 - i. If the vendor sources food products from multiple farms and ranches, 50% or more of the total farmers and ranchers that the vendor sources from are California farms and ranches using climate-smart agriculture practices and climate-smart agriculture production systems.

- b) The vendor is capable of serving public institutions.
 - c) The vendor tracks and readily provides itemized source identification information, including the farm or ranch of origin, and certifications to the Office.
 - d) The vendor keeps records of purchase invoices from sourced farms and ranches. After a vendor is approved, the vendor may be subject to an audit of its purchasing.
 - e) The vendor aligns with the priorities of the Office.
 - f) The vendor maintains robust compliance that ensures the farms and ranches that the vendor sources food products from comply with all laws, rules, and regulations, including food safety requirements and standards.
- 4) Requires the Office to publish the list of approved vendors on the department's internet website, including the region that each vendor serves and their contact information.
- 5) Requires the Office to ensure that vendors throughout the geographic regions of the state are selected.
- 6) Requires the Office to submit a report on the status of the program to the legislature within one year of the Office establishing the program. The report shall include, but not be limited to:
- a) The number and type of public institutions served by approved vendors, and the volumes of food products provided to each public institution.
 - b) The number and type, with respect to business model, of vendors on the approved vendor list.
 - c) The benefits and challenges experienced by public institutions using the program.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations:

“CDFA’s administrative costs have yet to be identified but could reach the low hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. (General Fund or special fund)”

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

California Fairs Alliance
California Farm Bureau Federation
Rural County Representatives of California
Western Fairs Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author:

“Supporting our farmers as they face stability challenges, while ensuring our state’s children have access to nutritious foods, is not just important, it’s essential. AB 1731 is a powerful step forward, empowering California’s farmers to give back to their communities with healthier food options, and ensuring our children thrive with the nourishment they deserve.”

The California Health Coalition Advocacy (CHCA) wrote in support, stating:

“CHCA is an organization that represents thousands of Californians and advocates on issues that impact their health and wellbeing. With approximately 5 million meals being served at California schools each day, it is important that healthy, minimally processed foods are provided to students. CHCA supported AB 1264 (Gabriel), enacted in 2025, which requires schools to phase out ultra-processed foods. AB 1731 supports the implementation of AB 1264 and would make healthy food more affordable for schools and more accessible to students, while also supporting local farms.”

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Reichel Everhart / AGRI. / (916) 651-1508
8/17/26 10:42:48

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