
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1734 (Stefani) - Count Hunger Act

Version: June 15, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: June 29, 2026

Policy Vote: HEALTH 10 - 0, ED. 7 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: AB 1734 would encourage the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), in administering the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), to expand the portion of the survey relating to food insecurity to include households with incomes at or below 400 percent of the federal poverty level.

Fiscal Impact: General Fund cost pressures, likely low hundreds of thousands, to the extent that non-General Fund moneys are unavailable to support the survey. UCLA estimates costs of \$287,570 to conduct a food insecurity survey for households with incomes at or below 400 percent of the federal poverty level.

Background: CHIS is conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, in collaboration with the California Department of Public Health and the Department of Health Care Services and is considered to be the nation's largest state health survey and a primary source of information regarding the health and health care needs of Californians. CHIS conducts ongoing surveys of randomly selected households across all 58 counties in California, and collects information on a broad range of topics, including health status, health care access, health insurance coverage, public program participation, mental health, food insecurity, employment, income, and other demographic and health-related characteristics. The survey data are used by policymakers, researchers, state and local agencies, community organizations, and others to better understand health trends and inform policy decisions. UCLA makes CHIS data available through several public data tools, including AskCHIS, which provides statewide, regional, and county-level health statistics derived from survey responses. In 2024, CHIS reported that 47.2 percent of California adults with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level indicated they could not afford enough food.

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Encourage the UCLA, in administering the CHIS, to expand the portion of the survey relating to food insecurity to include households with incomes at or below 400 percent of the federal poverty level.
- Encourage the UCLA, to make available, to the extent feasible and in a manner that does not include personally identifiable information, statewide, regional, and county-level data regarding food insecurity among households with incomes at or below 400 percent of the federal poverty level through the AskCHIS reporting tool or a successor public reporting platform.

- Encourage the activities to be undertaken only to the extent that the UCLA determines that sufficient resources are available; and specify that the provisions are not to be construed to require the appropriation of state funds or create an entitlement to state funding.

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