
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 1025 (Hurtado) - Office of Food Security and Affordability

Version: March 26, 2026
Urgency: No
Hearing Date: April 27, 2026

Policy Vote: HUMAN S. 4 - 0, G.O. 13 - 0
Mandate: No
Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: SB 1025 would establish the Office of Food Security and Affordability.

Fiscal Impact: Unknown General Fund costs, potentially hundreds of thousands annually (until January 1, 2037), to establish the new office and implement the duties.

Background: California operates various food assistance programs, including:

CalFresh. CalFresh, administered by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), provides monthly food benefits to qualified low-income individuals and families to assist with the purchase of the food they need to maintain adequate nutrition levels.

CalFood. The CalFood program, administered by CDSS, allocates funding to California's network of food banks to purchase food primarily sourced from California. Food banks distribute free food to food pantries, community and senior centers that serve hot food, student pantries on college campuses and other organizations.

Child and Adult Care Food Program. CDSS also administers the Child and Adult Care Food Program, which provides free meals in facilities such as child care centers, homeless shelters, adult daycare centers and afterschool care centers.

School Meal Programs. The California Department of Education administers two meal programs for school-age children, the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. Both programs provide free or reduced priced healthy meals to students.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program. The California Department of Public Health administers the WIC program, which provides supplemental foods, nutrition education, and health care referrals to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants, and children up to age five who are determined to be at nutritional risk.

Older Adult Nutrition Programs. The California Department of Aging oversees nutrition programs that provide meals for older adults. These services are typically offered at congregate nutrition sites or through home-delivered meals.

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Establish the Office of Food Security and Affordability, an independent public entity not affiliated with another state agency or department.

- Require that the Director of Food Security and Affordability be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, and specify the duties of the director.
- Require the office to collaborate with appropriate state agencies or departments to do all of the following:
 - Coordinate statewide outreach for food insecurity programs, including developing new initiatives and outreach campaigns and identifying best practices to increase enrollment in state-administered food assistance programs.
 - Establish and maintain a 24-hour toll-free hunger hotline to make information about food assistance programs widely available to the public.
 - Support grant application processes related to food security for in-state providers and state agencies or departments by monitoring available grant opportunities, recommending grant applications, and assisting with the grant application process.
 - Coordinate communication with and among food banks and emergency food providers.
 - Establish best practices for food banks and emergency food providers to reduce food waste and increase the distribution of fresh produce and protein-rich foods.
 - Cooperate with research organizations and institutions of higher education to monitor ongoing gap analyses identifying geographic or demographic areas underserved by existing food assistance programs.
 - Work with state and community partners to develop and update a strategic plan to address identified gaps in food assistance coverage.
 - Oversee the development and implementation of public-private partnerships to address food insecurity.
 - Coordinate outreach about food assistance to address food insecurity during federally declared or state-declared emergencies.
 - Coordinate food insecurity programming and initiatives for institutions of higher education in collaboration with the federal Office of Postsecondary Education.
 - Develop new initiatives, establish outreach campaigns, and identify best practices to reach seniors, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations.

- Coordinate outreach efforts for individuals who are newly unemployed and may be eligible for food assistance programs.
- Create the Food Security and Affordability Fund in the State Treasury for the receipt and deposit of moneys from federal, state, local, or private sources; and require, upon appropriation by the Legislature, the office to use moneys in the fund for implementation and administration.
- Sunset the bill's provisions on January 1, 2037.

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