

Date of Hearing:

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GROWTH, AND
HOUSEHOLD IMPACT

José Luis Solache, Jr., Chair

SB 1025 (Hurtado) – As Amended June 8, 2026

SENATE VOTE: 37-0

SUBJECT: Office of Food Security and Affordability

SUMMARY: This bill establishes the Office of Food Security and Affordability as an independent state entity to strengthen California's efforts to combat food insecurity. The office would coordinate statewide food assistance programs, including CalFresh, collaborate with state agencies to improve outreach and emergency food services, administer a dedicated Food Security and Affordability Fund, and operate until its repeal on January 1, 2037.

Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Declares that it is the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to access sufficient affordable and healthy food. Existing law establishes various food assistance programs, including, among others, the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known in California as CalFresh, under which supplemental nutrition assistance benefits allocated to the state by the federal government are distributed to eligible individuals by each county.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes various food assistance programs, including, among others, the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known in California as CalFresh, under which supplemental nutrition assistance benefits allocated to the state by the federal government are distributed to eligible individuals by each county.
- 2) Establishes the Office of Food Security and Affordability, an independent public entity not affiliated with another state agency or department, to be administered by a Director of Food Security and Affordability. This bill would require the director to be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.
- 3) Requires the office to collaborate with appropriate state agencies or departments to, among other things, coordinate statewide outreach for food insecurity programs and establish best practices for food banks and emergency food providers, as specified.
- 4) Create the Food Security and Affordability Fund for the receipt and deposit of moneys from federal, state, local, or private sources, and upon appropriation by the Legislature, would require the office to use those moneys to implement and administer these provisions.
- 5) Repeal these provisions on January 1, 2037.

FISCAL EFFECT: According to the author's office, the bill would result in unknown General Fund costs, potentially in the hundreds of thousands of dollars annually through January 1, 2037,

to establish and operate the Office of Food Security and Affordability. Recent amendments removing the proposed 24-hour hunger hotline are expected to reduce implementation costs. The bill also creates the Food Security and Affordability Fund to receive federal, state, local, and private funding, which, upon legislative appropriation, would be used to implement and administer the office's programs.

COMMENTS: SB 1025 seeks to improve food security by creating a centralized state office responsible for coordinating food assistance programs, outreach efforts, research, and policy development across multiple agencies. The bill is premised on the view that California's food assistance system is fragmented and that greater coordination could improve access to available benefits and services for households experiencing food insecurity. The measure raises several policy considerations for the Committee. Centralized coordination may help reduce administrative barriers, improve awareness of existing programs, strengthen emergency food response efforts, and increase participation among eligible households. Supporters also note that previous reviews of California's food assistance system have identified coordination challenges and recommended a more centralized approach to statewide food security policy.

Author's Statement: According to the author, "California is the agricultural powerhouse of the nation, producing nearly half of the country's fruits and vegetables. Yet more than 1 in 5 Californians, approximately 8.8 million people, struggle with food insecurity. Twenty-two percent of households and 27 percent of households with children lack consistent access to enough food for a healthy, active life, with even higher rates among Hispanic/Latine and Black families. Despite significant state investments in programs like CalFresh, WIC, CalWORKs, school nutrition, and emergency food assistance, fragmented administration across multiple agencies has led to uneven outreach, enrollment barriers, and inconsistent coordination. Far too many eligible seniors, students, people with disabilities, and working families continue to fall through the cracks.

Food insecurity is more than a moral issue. It is an issue interconnected with public health, education, and economic stability of Californians across that state. Rising food costs and a \$2.6 billion annual food budget shortfall highlight the urgency of a coordinated statewide strategy. SB 1025 ensures California takes a comprehensive, equity-centered approach to reducing hunger, strengthening emergency response, and promoting long-term food security. No Californian should have to worry about where their next meal will come from, and this bill moves us closer to making that vision a reality."

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

American Academy of Pediatrics, California
Bakersfield College
California Retired Teachers Association
Community Action Partnership of Kern
County Welfare Directors Association of California
Foodlink for Tulare County
Kern County Food Policy Council
Little Hoover Commission

Purfoods, LLC A/k/a Mom's Meals
The Hope Center
University of California
Wasco Recreation and Parks District

Opposition

None on file.

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