



Kathryn Harrison
Councilmember District 4

REVISED AGENDA MATERIAL

Meeting Date: July 11, 2017

Item Number: 24

Item Description: Support of AB 214: Postsecondary Education, Student Hunger

Submitted by: Councilmember Harrison

We have clarified the specifics in this bill. This bill would make more people eligible for federal anti-hunger aid. Specifically, this bill:

1. Requires that the California Student Aid Commission informs students if they are eligible for CalFresh. Currently there are students who are unaware of their eligibility for CalFresh.
2. Clarifies the definition of half-time enrollment. Federal rules currently dictate that if you are a student that is enrolled at least “half-time,” you must work 20 hours per week or meet other requirements to receive CalFresh benefits. Some higher education institutions in California have not had definitions for “half-time” and instead have used “part-time” definitions, which can mean that people who are enrolled in 1/3 or 1/4 of the credits needed to be full time students are subject to the work requirement. This bill de-fines



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July 11, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Kate Harrison
Subject: Resolution in Support of AB-214 Postsecondary education: student hunger

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution of Support for AB-214 Postsecondary education: student hunger, an act to reduce hunger and homelessness in college students in California and send a copy of the resolution to Governor Jerry Brown.

BACKGROUND

In both the California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) systems, students are going hungry. According to a survey released by the CSU system, 1 in 5 students are chronically hungry, and 1 in 10 experience homelessness. Another survey, conducted by the UC Regents, showed that 1 in 5 UC students do not have sufficient food access or nutritional health. It is relevant to note that hunger impedes graduation rates and learning outcomes.

California's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), is known as CalFresh and provides federally funded food benefits to low income people. Federal SNAP law limits the amount of students that qualify for anti-hunger help. This bill would clarify these restrictions, making more people eligible for federal anti-hunger aid. Specifically, this bill:

1. Requires that the California Student Aid Commission informs students if they are eligible for CalFresh. Currently there are students who are unaware of their eligibility for CalFresh.
2. Clarifies the definition of half-time enrollment. Federal rules currently dictate that if you are a student that is enrolled at least "half-time," you must work 20 hours per week or meet other requirements to receive CalFresh benefits. Some higher education institutions in California have not had definitions for "half-time" and instead have used "part-time" definitions, which can mean that people who are enrolled in 1/3 or 1/4 of the credits needed to be full time students are subject to the work requirement. This bill defines

“half-time” enrollment for all institutions as 50% of credits required to be considered enrolled full-time, therefore expanding the amount of people who do not have to work 20 hours a week to qualify.

This bill is expected to expand CalFresh funding to 4,000 low-income students.

This bill is co-sponsored by the University of California Students Association. Listed below are additional groups who have endorsed this bill:

- California Catholic Conference
- California Federation of Teachers
- California State University
- Children Now
- National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter (NASW-CA)
- 2 individuals
- California Food Policy Advocates
- Alameda County Food Bank
- California Association of Food Banks
- Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano
- California Youth Empowerment Network
- Courage Campaign
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
- California Student Aid Commission
- San Jose Evergreen Community College District
- Orange County Food Access Coalition
- Yolo Food Bank
- Feeding San Diego
- The Women’s Foundation of California

- Western Center on Law and Poverty/MAZON/CSSA/Student Senate for California Community Colleges/Young Invincibles /University of California Student Association CCWRO (Co-Sponsors)
- Black American Political Association of California
- The Association of California Food Banks
- The Faculty Association of California Community Colleges
- The Lieutenant Governor of the State of California
- Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs/California Association of Code Enforcement Officers/California College and University Police Chief Association/California Narcotic Officers Association/Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association/Los Angeles Police Protective League /Riverside Sheriffs Association

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No adverse effects to the environment

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Minimal financial implications.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Kate Harrison
Council District 4
510-981-7140

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. Text of SB560

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###N.S.

SUPPORT FOR AB-214 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: STUDENT HUNGER

WHEREAS, The University of California (UC) and California State Universities (CSU) both released surveys showing that student hunger is an issue that holds back 1 in 5 students on their respective campuses; and

WHEREAS, Hunger limits student learning outcomes and hinders graduation rates; and

WHEREAS, The CalFresh program provides federally funded anti-hunger aid to low-income Californians; and

WHEREAS, This bill would clarify eligibility rules of the CalFresh program that will expand food access to low-income students.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that that Council of the City of Berkeley supports AB-214 Postsecondary education: student hunger, an act to reduce hunger and homelessness in college students in California; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council directs the City Clerk to send a copy of the resolution to Governor Jerry Brown.

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2017–2018 REGULAR SES-
SION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 214

Introduced by Assembly Member Weber

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bloom, Bocanegra, Chávez,
Chiu, Cristina Garcia, Gonzalez Fletcher, Rodriguez, Voepel,
Waldron, Bloom, and Gonzalez Fletcher and Waldron)

(Coauthors: Senators Skinner, Bradford, Dodd, Hertzberg, and
Nguyen)

January 24, 2017

An act to amend Section 66025.93 of, and to add Section
69519.3 to, the Education Code, and to amend Section 18901.11
of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to postsecondary
education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 214, as amended, Weber. Postsecondary education: student
hunger.

(1) Existing law establishes the California State University, under
the administration of the Trustees of the California State Univer-
sity; the University of California, under the administration of the
Regents of the University of California; the California Community
Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of

the California Community Colleges; and independent institutions of higher education as the 4 segments of postsecondary education in this state.

This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to reduce the incidence of hunger and homelessness among college students in California.

(2) Existing law requires each public and private postsecondary educational institution that is located in a county that participates in the Restaurant Meals Program to apply to become an approved food vendor for the program, if the institution operates any qualifying food facilities on campus, or to provide contracting on-campus food vendors with specified information about the program.

This bill would provide definitions of “on-campus food vendors” and “qualifying food facility” for purposes of this provision.

(3) Existing federal law provides for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known in California as CalFresh, formerly the Food Stamp Program, under which supplemental nutrition assistance benefits allocated to the state by the federal government are distributed to eligible individuals by each county. Under existing law, households are eligible to receive CalFresh benefits to the extent permitted by federal law. Existing federal law provides that students who are enrolled in college or other institutions of higher education at least half time are not eligible for SNAP benefits unless they meet one of several specified exemptions, including participating in specified employment training programs.

Existing state law provides that, for the purposes of determining eligibility, certain educational programs, as determined by the State Department of Social Services, shall be considered employment training programs, thereby qualifying a student participating in one of those programs for an exemption, unless prohibited by federal law. Existing law also requires the State Department of Social Services, in consultation with representatives from other specified organizations, to establish a protocol to identify and verify all potential exemptions and to identify and verify participation in educational programs, including self-initiated placements, that would qualify a student for an exemption.

This bill would express legislative intent to clarify educational policies for purposes of improving access for low-income students to the CalFresh program. For purposes of the federal regulation, the bill would specify the definition of half-time college enrollment. The bill would also require the Student Aid Commission to provide written notice to recipients of Cal Grant awards who qualify

for participation in the CalFresh program under the federal regulation.

This bill would require the Department of Social Services to maintain a list of programs identified pursuant to existing law because they meet the employment training exemption set in the federal regulation. The bill would require the list to include, but not necessarily be limited to, specified programs. The bill would also require the department to issue and maintain instructions for county human services agencies to verify exemptions to the CalFresh student eligibility rules for students who participate in these programs, as specified. To the extent that this provision would impose new duties on county human services agencies, it would constitute a state-mandated local program.

(4) Existing law requires the Department of Social Services to implement the provisions described in (3) above by all-county letters or similar instructions beginning no later than October 1, 2015, until regulations are adopted, and further requires the department to adopt regulations on or before October 1, 2017. Existing law also requires the department to seek and obtain federal approval, as specified, prior to publishing that guidance or regulation, if the United States Department of Agriculture requires federal approval.

This bill would adjust the dates for the implementation and adoption of regulations. The bill would delete the provision relating to federal approval.

(5) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

DIGEST KEY

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: yes

BILL TEXT

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(1) According to the California State University (CSU), one in five CSU students experiences chronic hunger and one in 10 experiences homelessness.

(2) In a survey recently conducted by the Regents of the University of California (UC), it was found that one in 10 UC students do not have access to adequate food or nutrition.

(3) Nationwide, one-half of all community college students are struggling with housing or food insecurity.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to reduce the incidence of hunger and homelessness among college students in California.

SEC. 2. Section 66025.93 of the Education Code is amended to read:

66025.93. (a) Each public or private postsecondary educational institution that is located in a county that participates in the Restaurant Meals Program established pursuant to Section 2020 of Title 7 of the United States Code shall do all of the following:

(1) Apply to become an approved food vendor for the Restaurant Meals Program, if the institution operates any qualifying food facility on campus.

(2) Annually provide all on-campus food vendors not operated by the institution with information regarding the Restaurant Meals Program and the manner in which to apply.

(3) If an on-campus food vendor has been approved to participate in the Restaurant Meals Program, annually inform students about the program using information provided by the State Department of Social Services.

(b) This section does not require an institution to create, operate, or maintain an EBT system on behalf of on-campus food vendors.

(c) An approved food vendor participating in the Restaurant Meals Program pursuant to this section, and a county in which the program is operated, shall meet the requirements of the Restaurant Meals Program.

(d) For purposes of this section:

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(1) "On-campus food vendors" does not include any vendor that does not sell prepared food for onsite consumption or that sells food from a mobile food facility, as defined in Section 113831 of the Health and Safety Code.

(2) "Qualifying food facility" is a facility that sells prepared food for onsite consumption.

SEC. 3. Section 69519.3 is added to the Education Code, to read:

69519.3. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to clarify educational policies for purposes of improving access for low-income students to the CalFresh program established pursuant to Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 18900) of Part 6 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

(b) For purposes of Section 273.5(a) of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, a student shall be determined to be attending at least half-time any semester or term in which he or she enrolls in at least half of the number of credits needed each semester or term to graduate within four years of enrollment as a first-time freshman, or within two years of enrollment as a transfer student, unless prohibited by federal law.

(c) The commission shall notify, in writing, any recipient of a Cal Grant award whose grant includes any amount of funding that has been derived from the Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) block grant or state match in order for the student to verify that he or she qualifies for the exemption from the CalFresh program student eligibility rules provided for in Section 273.5(b) of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 4. Section 18901.11 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

18901.11. (a) For purposes of Section 273.5(b)(11)(ii) of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, an educational program that could be a component of a CalFresh E&T program described in Section 18926.5, as identified by the department, shall be considered an employment and training program under Section 273.7 of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, unless prohibited by federal law.

(b) The department shall, in consultation with representatives of the office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, offices of the Chancellor of the California State University, University of California Chancellors' offices, the California Workforce Investment Board, county human services agencies, and advocates for students and clients, establish a protocol to identify and verify all potential exemptions to the eligibility rule described in Section 273.5(a) of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and to identify and verify participation in educational programs, including, but not necessarily limited to, self-initiated placements, that would exempt a student from the eligibility rule described in Section 273.5(a) of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations. To the extent possible, this consultation shall take place through existing workgroups convened by the department.

(c) The department shall maintain the list of programs identified by the workgroup established pursuant to subdivision (b) because they meet the standard set in Section 273.5(b)(11) of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which provides that a student is eligible for an exemption from the CalFresh program's eligibility rules if the student's attendance can be described as part of a program to increase the student's employability. These programs shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, all of the following:

- (1) The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP).
- (2) College Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS).
- (3) Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE).
- (4) The McNair Scholars programs of the University of California programs.
- (5) The Puente Project of the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges and the University of California.
- (6) The Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) programs of the California Community Colleges.
- (7) The Guardian Scholar programs of the University of California, the California State University, and the California Community Colleges.
- (8) The Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI) of the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges.
- (9) The Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support (CAFYES) Program established by Section 79220 of the Education Code.

(10) The Chafee Education and Training Voucher Program of the Student Aid Commission.

(11) Any program or curriculum supported by the California Fostering Connections to Success Act enacted by Chapter 559 of the Statutes of 2010.

(d) (1) The department shall issue and maintain instructions for county human services agencies to verify exemptions to the CalFresh student eligibility rules for students who participate in the programs identified pursuant to subdivision (c), students who are approved and anticipate participating in state or federal work-study, workstudy, or students who meet one of the qualifications for exemptions set forth in Section 69519.3 of the Education Code.

(2) For purposes of this subdivision, and to the extent allowed by federal law, a student shall be considered to be “anticipating participation” in workstudy if he or she can reasonably expect or foresee being assigned a workstudy job, and a student shall be deemed to be “anticipating participation” in workstudy until he or she receives notice from the institution of higher education that he or she has been denied participation in workstudy.

(e) (1) This section does not require a county human services agency to offer a particular component, support services, or workers’ compensation to a student found eligible for an exemption pursuant to this section.

(2) This section does not restrict or require the use of federal funds for the financing of CalFresh E&T programs.

(3) This section does not require a college or university to provide a student with information necessary to verify eligibility for CalFresh.

SEC. 5. Notwithstanding the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code), the Department of Social Services shall implement Sections 3 and 4 of this act by all-county letters or similar instructions beginning no later than October 1, 2018, until regulations are adopted. The Department of Social Services shall adopt regulations implementing this section on or before October 1, 2020.

SEC. 6. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made

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pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.