

**Human Services and Economic Justice
September 4, 2018**

The last day of the 2018 Legislative Session was Friday, August 31st. Below is a list of Human Services and Economic Justice legislation that we are tracking. If Western Center has taken a position, it is also listed.

CalFresh, Emergency Food, Food System and School Meal Legislation

[SB 675 \(Skinner\)](#) would ensure adequate customer service for people purchasing food using Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT). This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center, United Food and Commercial Workers Western State's Council and the California Grocers Association.

Location: Not brought for a vote on the Assembly Floor, at the request of the Author

Position: Sponsor & Support

[SB 900 \(Wiener & Arambula\)](#) would establish the California Fruit and Vegetable EBT Pilot by preparing the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system to accrue, track and issue supplemental benefits that provide CalFresh recipients a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of California-grown fruits and vegetables. The bill would also provide grants for local entities to test this system in communities. This bill is co-sponsored by California Food Policy Advocates and SPUR.

Location: Hearing Cancelled in Assembly Human Services – Passed in the 2018-19 Budget Act

Position: Support

[AB 1871 \(Bonta\)](#) would ensure that low-income public charter school students are guaranteed access to a free or reduced-price school meal during the schoolday, just like all other low-income K-12 students have been since 1975. This bill is co-sponsored by the California Food Policy Advocates, the California Parent Teacher's Association, the California Teacher's Association and Western Center. More info and a sample support letter can be found at: <https://cfpa.net/ab1871>.

Location: Presented to the Governor

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 1883 \(Weber\)](#) would exclude the military basic allowance for housing (BAH) for active military from being reported as income when determining eligibility for child care and early education programs.

Location: Held in the Senate Committee on Appropriations

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 1892 \(Jones-Sawyer\)](#) would extend CalFresh Employment and Training programs to a broader group of CalFresh recipients and clarify rules for reimbursement of broadband expenses.

Location: Presented to the Governor

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 1894 \(Weber\)](#) would address college student hunger by allowing the California State University (CSU) Chancellor to apply for the CalFresh Restaurant Meal Program (RMP) on all CSU College Campuses even if the county does not participate in RMP. Co-Sponsored by Western Center, Young Invincibles, Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations and the CSU Student Association.

Location: Presented to the Governor

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 1952 \(Mayes\)](#) would AB create a process to bring together food system stakeholders to engage and collaborate at the local, regional and state levels to remove barriers to adequate, nutritious food choices and ensure that a vibrant and sustainable food system is available across all communities statewide.

Location: Held in the Senate Committee on Appropriations

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 1957 \(Berman\)](#) would modernize state laws governing communication for public social services, while ensuring the rights of applicants and recipients are protected. Specifically, this bill would establish the

Location: Presented to the Governor

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 2152 \(Weber\)](#) would require the Department of Social Services to define, after consulting with health professionals and other key stakeholders, the number of days that someone would experience hunger before they would be determined “unfit for work,” and, therefore, exempt from the CalFresh 3 month time limit for adults deemed able-bodied pursuant to federal law and guidance.

Location: Presented to the Governor

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

Economic Justice

[SB 10 \(Hertzberg\)](#) would end money bail, require conditions of release to be non-monetary, establishes a pre-trial detention policy that utilizes risk assessments. The final version of this bill was co-sponsored by Western Center, the Anti-Recidivism Coalition, Californians for Safety and Justice, and SEIU California. For more about money bail and poverty, go to: [Money Bail & Poverty One Pager](#)

Location: Signed by the Governor

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 298 \(Wieckowski\)](#) will cap how much can be levied from a bank account at one time to ensure that basic needs of the consumer can be met. It does not relieve the consumer of the debt. The bill is co-sponsored by Western Center and the California Low-Income Consumer Coalition.

Location: Failed on the Assembly Floor. For a copy of the vote count, click here: [Vote Count for SB 298](#)

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 607 \(Skinner\)](#) would prevent suspensions for pupils through grade 12 for so-called “willful defiance,” which are known to have predominantly impacted pupils of color.

Location: Engrossing & Enrolling

Position: Support

[SB 822 \(Wiener\)](#) would restore net neutrality protections established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) under President Obama in 2015 and repealed by the FCC under President Trump in 2017.

Location: Engrossing & Enrolling

Position: Support

[SB 1014 \(Skinner\)](#) would require the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), in consultation with the California Air Resources Board (ARB) and California Energy Commission (CEC), to establish the California Clean Miles Standard and Incentive Program (CCMSIP) to increase the use of zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) by ride-sharing companies, including transportation network companies (TNCs).

Location: Engrossing & Enrolling

Position: Support

[SB 1142 \(Skinner\)](#), The Getting Home Safe Act, would require county jails to establish enumerated protocols to ensure that people who are released from prison are done so under safe conditions which maximize

opportunities to support successful re-entry and prevent recidivism. This bill is sponsored by Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition comprised of The Young Women's Freedom Center, Essie Justice Group, Anti Police-Terror Project and Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice.

Location: Senate Rules Committee – To Be Reintroduced Next Year

Position: Support

[SB 1135 \(Bradford\)](#) would codify the requirements of an existing low-income electric rate discount program, known as the Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) program, for the state's three largest electrical corporations and increase the program discount from 12 percent to 18 percent line-item discount on a customer's electric utility bill.

Location: Presented to the Governor

[SB 1190 \(Skinner\)](#) would require restitution, or victim compensation, to any survivor of state-sponsored sterilization conducted pursuant to eugenics laws that existed in California between 1909 and 1979.

Location: Held under submission in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations

Position: Support

[SB 1392 \(Mitchell\)](#) which would repeal Penal Code 667.5(b), a sentencing enhancement that adds an additional year of incarceration for each prior prison term or qualifying county jail term.

Location: Failed passage on the Senate Floor. To see vote count, [click here](#).

Position: Support

[SB 1393 \(Mitchell\)](#) would remove the 5-year automatic sentence enhancement for people with a prior serious felony conviction, thus restoring the court's discretion in the interest of justice.

Location: Engrossing & Enrolling

Position: Support

[SB 1421 \(Skinner\)](#) would permit inspection of specified peace and custodial officer there has been an incident involving the discharge of a firearm or electronic control weapons by an officer; strikes of impact weapons or projectiles to the head or neck area; deadly force or serious bodily injury by an officer; sustained sexual assault by an officer; or sustained findings of dishonesty by a peace officer.

Location: Engrossing and Enrolling

Position: Support

[AB 237 \(Gonzalez Fletcher\)](#) would expand the Pilot Program for Increased Access to Responsible Small Dollar Loans from \$2,500 to \$7,500 and establishes a debt-to-income cap of 36% monthly income for loans \$2,500+.

Location: Engrossing and Enrolling

Position: Oppose

[AB 1974 \(Gonzalez Fletcher\)](#) would establish rules for schools when taking action to collect debt against a low-income child, including how they may work from a private, third-party debt collector.

Location: Engrossing and Enrolling

[AB 2138 \(Chiu & Low\)](#) Reforms rules and practices of licensing boards governed by the Department of Consumer Affairs/Business & Professions Code.

Location: Engrossing & Enrolling

Position: Support

[AB 2392 \(Santiago\)](#) was amended to clarify law regarding how much tow yards can charge and how payments can be made.

Location: Engrossing & Enrolling

[AB 2532 \(Jones-Sawyer\)](#) would require community service to be allowed for infractions and sets the rate for community service at twice the state minimum wage.

Location: Presented to the Governor

Position: Sponsor & Support

[AB 2544 \(Lackey\)](#) would clarify that parking authorities that offer payments plans for parking tickets must offer payment plans to person who got a ticket before the passage of AB 503.

Location: Presented to the Governor

Position: Sponsor & Support

[AB 2876 \(Jones-Sawyer\)](#) would clarify that the removal of a vehicle as authorized by California statute is also required to be constitutionally reasonable based on the specific situation.

Location: Engrossing and Enrolling

Position: Sponsor & Support

[AB 2946 \(Kalra\)](#) would extend from 6 months to 3 years the length of time a person who believes he or she has been discharged or otherwise discriminated against in violation of any law under the jurisdiction of the Labor Commissioner to file a complaint with the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement.

Location: Failed on the Floor of the Assembly. For final vote count, [click here](#).

Position: Support

[AB 2953 \(Limón\)](#) the Auto Title Lending Reform Act, would eliminate the practice of charging triple-digit interest rates on consumer loans that require consumers to pledge their vehicle as security on the loan.

Location: Failed in Senate Committee on Banking & Financial Institutions. For vote count, [click here](#).

Position: Support

[AB 2984 \(Limón\)](#) would give the Department of Business Oversight (DBO) greater enforcement tools.

Location: Held in Senate Committee on Appropriations

Position: Support

[AB 3010 \(Limón\)](#) would ensure that the original intent of the Legislature is clear to the industry and other relevant stakeholders and enforced by Department of Business Oversight (DBO) to prevent lenders from extending new payday loans to consumers who have outstanding loans.

Location: Senate Committee on Banking & Financial Institutions, hearing cancelled at request of Author

Position: Support

[AB 3207 \(Limón\)](#) would clarify that lead generators performing certain activities on behalf of finance lenders for compensation must obtain a broker's license.

Location: Held under submission in Senate Committee on Appropriations

Position: Support

Income Assistance, Work Supports & Child Support

[SB 726 \(Wiener\)](#) make several changes to CalWORKs overpayment recovery policies.

Location: Engrossing & Enrolling

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 926 \(Skinner\)](#) would prevent economic sanctions on CalFresh & CalWORKs applicants and recipients when they voluntarily quit a job or reduce hours if the reason is that they were subject to harassment, discrimination or other violation of rights established in the California Labor Code. It also requires County Human Service Agencies to provide information about labor law protections to workers applying for safety net services.

Location: Presented to the Governor

Position: Sponsor & Support

[SB 982 \(Mitchell\)](#) would increase the CalWORKs grant to prevent childhood deep poverty and add an inflation adjuster to ensure grants are responsive to the increases in the cost of living.

Location: Held in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations – partially funded in the 2018-19 Budget Act.

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 1446 \(Glazer\)](#) would establish that, if a County discovers that an adult recipient of CalWORKs is meeting the federally required minimum average number of hours per week of welfare-to-work participation as required by federal law, the recipient shall be deemed to be in compliance with program requirements.

Location: Held in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations

Position: Support

[AB 992 \(Arambula\)](#) would establish the CalWORKs Baby Wellness and Family Support Home Visiting Program, a voluntary public health home visiting program for people who are pregnant and new parents.

Location: Held in the Senate Human Services Committee

Position: Co-sponsor & Support

[AB 1428 \(McGuire\)](#) would establish that a minor's application for a work permit shall not be denied due to low grades or poor school attendance during the regular summer vacation if the student is seeking the permit for participation in a government funded youth jobs or job training program.

Location: Presented to the Governor

Position: Co-sponsor & Support

[AB 1921 \(Maienschein\)](#) would remove the consecutive day requirement for temporary housing assistance and allow CalWORKs recipients to use permanent housing assistance payment towards shared housing.

Location: Presented to the Governor

Position: Co-sponsor & Support

[AB 1992 \(K. Chu\)](#) would make changes economic penalties required by current CalWORKs program when a child in the home is not vaccinated and would improve access to healthcare services.

Location: Presented to the Governor

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 2030 \(Limón\)](#) would require the department to make improvements to application and reporting forms and to computer eligibility files to ensure that disability accommodation or domestic abuse status is immediately visible to county workers each time they are serving a public benefits applicant or recipient.

Location: Presented to the Governor

Position: Co-sponsor & Support

[AB 2023 \(Caballero\)](#) to make the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit refundable.

Location: Held under submission in the Senate Committee on Appropriations

Position: Support

[AB 2111 \(Quirk\)](#) would allow counties to extend the 12-month exception period for an indigent exemption in the CalWORKs program as allowed in Section 1631 of Title 8 of the United States Code.

Location: Presented to the Governor

Position: Sponsor & Support

[AB 2269 \(Lackey\)](#) would increase the age that a dependent can receive aid in CalWORKs from 19 to 22 providing that they are still attending high school or the equivalent level of vocational or technical training full-time.

Location: Held under submission in the Senate Committee on Appropriations

Position: Co-sponsor & Support

[AB 2313 \(Stone\)](#) would reinforce protections for low-income people who have their benefits stolen through the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system.

Location: Presented to the Governor

Position: Co-sponsor & Support

[AB 2326 \(Rubio\)](#) would remove add flexibility to the welfare-to-work exemption for a parent or other relative who has primary responsibility caring for a child 24 months of age or under to allow parents to use the months non-consecutively.

Location: Held in Senate Committee on Appropriations

Position: Support

[AB 3200 \(Kalra, Reyes & Thurmond\)](#) would reinstate the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) beginning January 1 of the 2019 calendar year require a maximum aid payment provided to an individual or a married couple to equal 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL).

Location: Help in Senate Committee on Appropriations

Position: Co-sponsor & Support

[AB 3224 \(Thurmond\)](#) would codify current federal regulation and state practice by requiring that eligibility workers in CalWORKs, CalFresh and Medi-Cal be done by someone who is a civil servant or merit employee.

Location: Signed by the Governor

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

About Western Center on Law and Poverty

Western Center on Law and Poverty leads the fight in the courts, counties, and capital to secure housing, health care and a strong safety net for low-income Californians. Learn more at: www.wclp.org For more information about these bills or about our legislative priorities or positions in this issue area, contact:

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