

Human Services and Economic Justice Legislative Update October 2, 2018

The last day of the 2018 Legislative Session was Friday, August 31st and the deadline for the Governor to sign or veto legislation passed before the end of the Session was Sunday, September 30th. Below is a list of Human Services and Economic Justice legislation we were tracking and that was presented to the Governor with the final disposition of the legislation. For the final disposition of legislation that was not passed, please see our Legislative Update posted September 1, 2018. If Western Center has taken a position, it is listed.

CalFresh, Emergency Food, Food System and School Meal Legislation

[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. Co-sponsored by California Food Policy Advocates and SPUR.

Location: 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. 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: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 480, Statutes of 2018

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. Co-Sponsored by Western Center on Law and Poverty and the Hunger Action Los Angeles.

Location: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 381, Statutes of 2018

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: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 746, Statutes of 2018

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 1957](#) ([Berman](#)) would modernize state laws governing communication for public social services by requiring the Department to issue regulations for automated text-message communication, while ensuring the rights of applicants and recipients are protected. Co-sponsored by the Western Center on Law and Poverty, the California Association of Food Banks and the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations.

Location: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 384, Statutes of 2018

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. This bill was sponsored by the Western Center on Law and Poverty and the California Hunger Action Coalition.

Location: Vetoed by the Governor. [Veto message posted here:](#)

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, Chapter 244, Statutes of 2018

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

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

Location: Vetoed by the Governor. [Veto message posted here:](#)

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: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 976, Statutes of 2018

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: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 369, Statutes of 2018

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: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 413, Statutes of 2018

[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: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 1013, Statutes of 2018

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: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 988, Statutes of 2018

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: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 1016, Statutes of 2018
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: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 577, Statutes of 2018
Position: Support

[AB 2138 \(Chiu & Low\)](#) Reforms rules and practices of licensing boards governed by the Department of Consumer Affairs/Business & Professions Code.
Location: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 995, Statutes of 2018
Position: Support

[AB 2392 \(Santiago\)](#) was amended to clarify law regarding how much tow yards can charge and how payments can be made.
Location: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 434, Statutes of 2018
Position: Sponsor & Support

[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: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 280, Statutes of 2018
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: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 494, Statutes of 2018
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: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 592, Statutes of 2018
Position: Sponsor & Support

Income Assistance, Work Supports & Child Support

[SB 726 \(Wiener\)](#) make several changes to CalWORKs overpayment recovery policies.
Location: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 930, Statutes of 2018
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: Vetoed by the Governor. [Veto message posted here:](#)
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: Partially funded in the 2018-19 Budget Act.
Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 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: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 420, Statutes of 2018

Position: Co-sponsor & 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: Passed in the 2018-19 Budget Act

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: Vetoed by the Governor. [Veto message posted here:](#)

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: Vetoed by the Governor. [Veto message posted here:](#)

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: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 485, Statutes of 2018

Position: Co-sponsor & 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: Vetoed by the Governor. [Veto message posted here:](#)

Position: 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: Signed by the Governor, Chapter 712, Statutes of 2018

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, Chapter 179, Statutes of 2018

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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