

Human Services and Economic Justice Legislative Update
Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Friday was the last day to introduce a bill in this 2-year legislative session. Below is a list of bills that Western Center is tracking. A position is noted if we have taken one.

Human Rights Legislation

[AB 2487](#) ([Gómez Reyes](#)) would create the California Commission on Human Rights,

Location: Introduced

Position: Support

CalFresh, Emergency Food, Food System and School Meal Legislation

[SB 33](#) ([Skinner](#)) would prevent online cash EBT purchases unless retailer has been approved by CDSS and would establish food safety requirements for online CalFresh EBT purchases.

Location: Referred to the Assembly

Position: Sponsor & Support

[SB 882](#) ([Wiener](#)) would simplify the CalFresh application for many older adults and people with disabilities, and eliminate burdensome, ongoing reporting requirements that cause many households to lose nutrition assistance, even though they remain eligible. It would also ensure all applicants and participants can complete the application and recertification interview processes by phone, including the required client signature. More info at <https://cfpa.net/sb882/>

Location: Referred to Senate Committee on Human Services

Position: Support

[SB 1082](#) ([Dodd](#)) would require the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) to notify a student of their potential CalFresh eligibility and for the California Community Colleges Board of Governors (BOG) to adopt regulations that would allow student eligibility for a BOG fee waiver under with an income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level to increase CalFresh benefit uptake of eligible college students.

Location: Introduced

Position: Support

[SB 1417](#) ([McGuire](#)) would make targeted State investments to enable the implementation of universally free breakfast and lunch in schools where there is a substantial need among students but federal rules make the provision of universally free meals unattainable or unsustainable for school districts and charter schools. Sponsored by the California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA).

Location: Introduced

Position: Support

[AB 987 \(R.Rivas\)](#) would make changes to the CalWORKs special food benefit so that it is delivered on EBT as a food benefit (rather than a cash benefit, which makes it countable income in CalFresh) and add lack of fresh water and high blood levels as reasons to receive the CalWORKs special food needs supplement.

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee – Pending Hearing in 2020

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 1022 \(Wicks\)](#) would prevent the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Able Body Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) Time Limit from impacting low-income recipients of CalFresh.

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee – Pending Hearing in 2020

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 1995 \(L. Rivas\)](#) would end the co-payment for students whose parents are required to pay for a reduced-price meal in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

Location: Referred to Assembly Committee on Education

Position: Support

[AB 2243 \(Eggman\)](#) would extend the authorization for those tax credits to a taxable year beginning before January 1, 2027.

Location: Introduced

Position: Support

[AB 2282 \(McCarty\)](#) is a spot bill that, once amended, would address College Student Hunger

Location: Introduced

Position: Co-sponsor & Support

[AB 2413 \(Ting\)](#) would improve the ability of County Human Services Agencies to serve eligible Californians with CalFresh benefits.

Location: Introduced

Position: Support with anticipated amendments.

[AB 2527 \(Nazarian\)](#) is a spot bill that, once amended, would create a pilot school breakfast program to serve younger siblings of school age children.

Location: Introduced

Position: Sponsor & Support

[AB 3006 \(Berman\)](#) would require the state to reimburse local educational agencies for expenses in providing a National School Lunch Program (NSLP) reimbursable meals to children.

Location: Introduced

Position: Support

[AB 3073 \(Wicks\)](#) would require the Department of Social Services to issue guidance on the allowable practices to maximize CalFresh eligibility for people leaving jail or prison.

Location: Introduced

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 3134 \(Gómez Reyes\)](#) would extend the length of time that a refugee family could receive Refugee Cash Assistance.

Location: Introduced

Position: Support

[AB 3142 \(Wicks\)](#) is a spot bill that, once amended, would prevent the sponsors of immigrant recipients of the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) and other state public assistance programs from having to pay for benefits received by a low-income, eligible immigrant.

Location: Introduced

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 3238 \(Smith\)](#) is a spot bill related to foster youth and hunger.

Location: Introduced

Position: Sponsor & Support

Access to Justice

[SB 144 \(Mitchell\)](#) would repeal state law authorizing specified criminal justice fees.

Location: Assembly Public Safety Committee – Pending hearing in June 2020

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 472 \(Caballero\)](#) would establish consumer protections related to advance pay financial services.

Location: Assembly Banking and Finance

[SB 664 \(Allen\)](#) would retroactively change state law to allow toll agencies to enforce toll violations and civil penalties without providing notice to those alleged to have committed a violation.

Location: Assembly - Privacy and Consumer Protection

Position: Oppose

[SB 749 \(Durazo\)](#) would provide that records relating to wages, benefits, working hours, and other employment terms for a private industry employer as a result of a contract with a state or local agency are public records and shall not be deemed to be trade secrets under specified conditions.

Location: Assembly Floor - Inactive

Position: Support

[SB 776 \(Skinner\)](#) would prohibit a postsecondary educational institution in this state from inquiring about a prospective student's criminal history before the institution's final admission decision.

Location: Assembly pending referral

Position: Support

[SB 889 \(Skinner\)](#) would raise the age for youth in the youth justice system.

Location: Introduced

Position: Watch

[SB 908 \(Wieckowski\)](#) would enact the Debt Collection Licensing Act which would provide for the licensure, regulation, and oversight of debt collectors by the Department of Business Oversight.

Location: Introduced

Position: Support

[SB 926 \(Hill\)](#) would prevent discrimination consumers who use cash as form of payment.

Location: Introduced

Position: Support

[SB 960 \(Hertzberg\)](#) would clarify that “loan or extension of credit” includes a contract or agreement to finance or secure a bail bond or immigration bond for the release of a detained individual and would be subject to all of the protections of the Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

Location: Introduced

Position: Support

[SB 1290 \(Durazo & Mitchell\)](#) would require counties to stop collecting juvenile fees assessed before 2018.

Location: Introduced

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 1399 \(Durazo & Gonzalez\)](#) is a spot bill that, once amended, would reduce poverty among low-income workers with children who are living in deep poverty.

Location: Introduced

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SCR 69 \(Bradford\)](#) This resolution would express the Legislature’s support for fair and just wages for workers who are incarcerated, working for the Prison Industry Authority, the Division of Juvenile Facilities, and the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Location: Referred to the Assembly

Position: Co-sponsor & Support

[AB 31 \(Garcia\)](#) would exempt period supplies from state sales tax, which were temporarily suspended in the Budget Act of 2019-20.

Location: Referred to the Senate

Position: Support

[AB 66 \(Gonzalez\)](#) would end the sales tax on diapers, which were temporarily suspended in the Budget Act of 2019-20.

Location: Referred to the Senate.

Position: Support

[AB 901 \(Gipson\)](#) would change the laws relating to how a child struggling to attend school is treated by school officials, the youth criminal justice system, and the youth probation system.

Location: Senate Floor - Inactive

Position: Support

[AB 2201 \(Grayson\)](#) is a placeholder bill to the section of law that requires Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the Department of Motor Vehicles to ensure that all eligible inmates released from a state prison have a valid identification card and that they have access to specified state and federal services, including transitional services and enrollment in the Medi-Cal.

Location: Introduced as placeholder

Position: Watch

[AB 2903 \(Limón\)](#) This bill allows persons attending traffic school to pay the cost of the program in installment payments.

Location: Introduced

Position: Support

[AB 2520 \(Chiu\)](#) would add legal service providers to the list of people who may receive, upon written request by the patient, a copy, at no charge, of the relevant portion of the patient's records, when they show proof that the records or supporting forms are needed to support a claim or appeal regarding eligibility for a public benefits, as listed and expanded by this act.

Location: Introduced

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 2633 \(Ting\)](#) would establish a process for youth to open a bank account in their name without the signature of a qualified adult. This is especially important for low-income children whose parents may not be qualified to co-sign, for unaccompanied minors and for foster youth.

Location: Introduced

Position: Support

[AB 2835 \(Stone\)](#) would ensure that people leaving prison have a government I.D.

Location: Introduced

Position: Support

[AB 3277 \(Jones-Sawyer\)](#) would increase the total amount that can be paid in installments for parking ticket penalties and related service fees to \$750, and extend the time in which those penalties and fees can be paid to 30 months. It would also extend the time a person who is indigent to file a request for a payment plan from 60 days after issuance of a notice of parking violation to 120 calendar days.

Location: Introduced

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

Income Assistance, Work Supports, Child Support & Basic Needs Support

[SB 1019 \(McGuire\)](#) is a spot bill related to Human Services.

Location: Introduced

[SB 1065 \(Hertzberg\)](#) would make specified changes to the CalWORKs Homeless Assistance Program.

Location: Introduced

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 1232](#) ([Glazer](#)) would provide low-income parents in a CalWORKs recipient family who are making satisfactory progress at a publicly funded postsecondary educational institution a standard allowance of \$250 to \$500 per academic term to support the costs of education. It would also exempt them from participating in work activities and entitle them to an extension of the 24-month time clock.

Location: Introduced

Position: Support

[SB 1409](#) & [AB 2558](#) ([Caballero](#) & [Gómez Reyes](#)) would establish the child deep poverty tax credit.

Location: Introduced

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 1434](#) ([Kalra](#)) would increase the SSI / SSP Grants for people who are disabled or elderly so that their income is no less than the federal poverty line.

Location: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee

Position: Co-sponsor & Support

[AB 1593](#) ([Gómez Reyes](#)) would end the discrimination against immigrant workers in our Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) by establishing a path for ITIN holders to receive it.

Location: Senate pending referral

Position: Support

[AB 2003](#) ([C. Garcia](#)) would require Community Colleges to provide period products in restrooms.

Location: Introduced

Position: Support

[AB 2029](#) ([Berman](#)) would conform CalWORKs income exclusion of child support paid with the income exclusion policies of CalFresh, Medi-Cal and Child Support laws.

Location: Introduced

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 2046](#) ([Voepel](#)) would cap how much could be taken from a Veteran's Disability Payment by the local Child Support Agency to pay for arrearages owed at five percent.

Location: Introduced

[AB 2325](#) ([Carrillo](#)) would restore Section 4007.5 of the Family Code with a 3 year sunset. This law was allowed to sunset last year, requiring the Dept of Child Support Services, child support agencies and the courts to manually process child support order suspensions for people who are incarcerated for 90 days or longer, as required by federal law, rather than have them automatically suspended.

Location: Introduced

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 2415](#) ([Quirk](#)) would ban surcharges for EBT customers withdrawing cash benefits from an ATM.

Location: Introduced

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 2567 \(Burke\)](#) is a placeholder bill that, once amended, would restore the 60 month time-on-aid clock for the CalWORKs program, which was cut to 48 months during the recession to help balance the books. With [nearly 3 in 4 states offering more time on aid](#) than California and tens of billions in reserves, it is long-past the time to restore this cut. Doing so will increase the ability of low-income parents to complete education, training & essential barrier removal on a path to economic stability.

Location: Introduced

Position: Sponsor & Support

[AB 2712 \(Low\)](#) would establish a universal basic income in the amount of \$1,000 per year to be paid for by taxes that would disproportionately impact low-income tax payers. AB 2712 specifies that millions of low-income Californians would not be eligible for the benefit but does not have an income cap and so is expected to increase California's already record high inequality.

Location: Introduced

[AB 3079 \(E. Garcia\)](#) is a spot bill that, once amended, will take specified actions to modernize and expand the California Lifeline Program.

Location: Introduced

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 3314 \(Weber\)](#) would conform state law establishing guidelines for default child support orders of the non-custodial parent as required by federal rule.

Location: Introduced

Position: Sponsor & Support

About Western Center on Law and Poverty

For over five decades, the Western Center on Law & Poverty has advocated on behalf of individuals with low incomes in every branch of California government—from the courts to the Legislature. Through the lens of economic and racial justice, we litigate, educate and advocate around health care, housing, and public benefits policies and administration. Learn more at: www.wclp.org. For more information about these bills or about our legislative positions in this issue area, contact:

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