

Human Services and Economic Justice Legislative Update
Monday, March 16, 2020

All hearings for the week of March 16th have been cancelled. Later this week, the Legislature is expected to adjourn for a three-week period. Below is a list of bills that Western Center is tracking. A position is noted if we have taken one.

Public Health Emergency COVID-19

[By executive order](#), Governor Gavin Newsom has suspended the 72-hour rule which normally requires a bill to be in print for 72-hours before it can be voted on and he has requested that the legislature pass legislation to support the ability of the Government to respond timely to the current [COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#). The following bills were passed on March 16, 2020.

[AB 89 /SB 89](#) (Budget & Fiscal Review Committee) authorizes \$500m to \$1b to Governor to utilize for emergency response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. For more information about how the Governor is responding, see his informative webpage which is updated daily.

[AB 117/SB 117](#)(Budget & Fiscal Review Committee) authorizes funding and authority to reduce economic harm to educational institutions related to closures resulting from the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. For more on how schools are responding, see the [California Department of Education's helpful webpage](#).

Human Rights Legislation

[AB 2487](#) ([Gómez Reyes](#)) would create the California Commission on Human Rights,
Location: Referred to the Assembly Accountability and Administrative Review Committee
Position: Sponsor & 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: 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: Senate Human Services Committee – ~~March 23, 2020~~ *Hearing Postponed*

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: Senate Education Committee – ~~March 24, 2020~~ *Hearing Postponed*

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: Referred to Senate Education Committee

Position: Support

[AB 987](#) ([R.Rivas](#)) would make changes to the CalWORKs special food benefit) 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: Assembly Education Committee – ~~March 18, 2020~~ *Hearing Postponed*

Position: Support

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

Location: Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee – ~~March 17, 2020~~ *Hearing Postponed*

Position: Support

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

Location: Pending committee referral

Position: Co-sponsor & Support

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

Location: Referred to Assembly Human Services Committee

Position: Support with anticipated amendments.

[AB 2527 \(Nazarian\)](#) would direct the Department of Education to issue guidance to schools for how to serve school breakfast program to serve younger sibling of an elementary school student and establish a state reimbursement for breakfast served to parents and guardians eating with their child.

Location: Pending committee referral

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: Referred to Assembly Education Committee

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: Assembly Human Services Committee – ~~March 24, 2020~~ *Hearing Postponed*

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

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

Location: Referred to Assembly Human Services Committee

Position: Support

[AB 3142 \(Wicks\)](#) 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: Referred to Assembly Human Services Committee

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

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

Location: Pending Committee Referral

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: Pending committee referral

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: Senate Banking and Financial Institutions Committee – April 1, 2020

Position: Support

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

Location: Senate Business, Professions & Econ Development – ~~March 23, 2020~~ *Hearing Postponed*

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: Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee and Senate Appropriations Committee

Position: Support

[SB 1290 \(Durazo & Mitchell\)](#) would require counties to stop collecting juvenile fees assessed before January 1, 2018.

Location: Senate Public Safety Committee – ~~March 24, 2020~~ *Hearing Postponed*

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: Pending Assembly committee referral

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 Assembly Public Safety Committee

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: Pending Senate committee assignment

Position: Support

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

Location: Pending Senate committee assignment

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 Education Committee – ~~March 24, 2020~~ *Hearing Postponed*

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: Pending committee referral

Position: Watch

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

Location: Assembly Transportation Committee – ~~March 23, 2020~~ *Hearing Postponed*

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: Assembly Health Committee – ~~March 24, 2020~~ *Hearing Postponed*

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: Referred to Assembly Banking and Finance

Position: Support

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

Location: Referred to Assembly Public Safety Committee

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: Referred to Assembly Transportation Committee

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

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

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

Location: Senate Human Services Committee – ~~March 23, 2020~~ *Hearing Postponed*

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: Senate Human Services Committee – ~~March 23, 2020~~ *Hearing Postponed*

Position: Support

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

Location: Pending committee referral

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 1993 \(Kamlager\)](#) would expand the definition of “employment” for the purposes of unemployment insurance (UI) coverage to include services performed by an individual caring for their parent, child, or spouse as an In-Home Supportive Services provider.

Location: Referred to Committee on Insurance

Position: Support

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

Location: Referred to Assembly Higher Education Committee

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: Assembly Human Services Committee – ~~March 24, 2020~~ *Hearing Postponed*

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: Re-referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee

Position: Support with Amendments

[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 child support order suspensions to be process manually for people who are incarcerated over 90 days, rather than have them automatically suspended.

Location: Assembly Judiciary Committee – ~~March 17, 2020~~ *Hearing Postponed*

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

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

Location: Assembly Human Services Committee – ~~March 24, 2020~~ *Hearing Postponed*

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 2567 \(Burke\)](#) would restore the 60 month time-on-aid clock for the CalWORKs program, which was cut to 48 during the last recession. [Nearly 3 in 4 states offering more time on aid](#) than California.

Location: Referred to Assembly Human Services Committee

Position: Sponsor & Support

[AB 2712 \(Low\)](#) would establish a universal basic income to be paid for by taxes that would disproportionately while specifying that millions of low-income Californians would not eligible. It does not have an income cap and so is expected to increase California's already record high inequality.

Location: Referred to Assembly Human Services Committee

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

Location: Pending committee referral

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: Referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee

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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