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60TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

AB 1967 - Food Insecurity Officer

BILL SUMMARY

AB 1967 seeks to create a Food Insecurity Officer (FIO) tasked with coordinating and addressing food insecurity throughout state government operations.

BACKGROUND

SNAP is an invaluable tool in the fight against food insecurity and poverty. Per the Center of Budget and Policy Priorities, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helped 4,627,700 Californians in fiscal year 2022.¹

Additionally, SNAP lifted 776,000 people (including 377,000 children) above the poverty line annually in California between 2014 and 2018.²

Per the California Association of Food Banks, the United States Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey, found that 23% of Households, and 28% of Households with Children suffered from food insecurity in California.³

Per the Center of Budget and Policy Priorities, SNAP is one of the more effective forms of economic stimulus in a bad economy, since every dollar increase in SNAP benefits, generates \$1.70 in economic activity.⁴

PROBLEM

California is lagging behind other states in its SNAP enrollment rates, with 70% of eligible Californians and only 59% of eligible workers participating in 2018.⁵

There is still plenty of room for growth in enrollment when looking at the success of states like Oregon, which had participation rates for eligible individuals (95%-100%) and workers (88%) in 2018.⁶

Washington State also saw similar success, with 95%-100% of eligible individuals and 85% of workers participating in SNAP in 2018.⁷

¹ [snap_factsheet_california.pdf \(cbpp.org\)](#)

² [Ibid](#)

³ [cafoodbanks.org/food-insecurity-data/](#)

⁴ [SNAP Is Effective and Efficient](#)

⁵ [Ibid](#)

⁶ [A Closer Look at Who Benefits from SNAP](#)

Even Texas outperformed California in SNAP participation rates for eligible individuals (75%) and workers (74%) in 2018.⁸

Some of the key issues facing California, as it relates to SNAP, are the lack of sufficient application processing timeliness (APT)⁹, payment error rates (PER)¹⁰, and case and procedural error rates (CAPER),¹¹ with California falling below federal minimums in all three metrics.

California can no longer afford to leave options on the table when combating food insecurity, especially when there are existing blueprints that can be used to improve outcomes for working families.

SOLUTION

AB 1967 seeks to create a Food Insecurity Officer within the Government Operations Agency, tasked with coordinating and addressing food insecurity throughout state government operations.

The bill would authorize the FIO to engage with state entities and seek waivers from the federal government for these purposes.

Under AB 1967, the FIO would focus on increasing SNAP enrollment for seniors, families with children, individuals leaving incarceration, and formerly incarcerated individuals.

SUPPORT

SF-Marin Food Bank (Co-Sponsor)

Young Invincibles (Co-Sponsor)

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⁷ [Ibid](#)

⁸ [Ibid](#)

⁹ [FY 2022 Reported SNAP Application Processing Timeliness](#)

¹⁰ [Fiscal Year 2022 SNAP Payment Error Rates](#)

¹¹ [Fiscal Year 2022 SNAP Case and Procedural Error Rates](#)