



Senator Melissa Hurtado

REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT 14

Senate Bill 609

CalFresh Employment and Training

Expansion and Improvement Program

Introduced February 18, 2021

SUMMARY

SB 609 establishes the CalFresh Employment and Training (E&T) Expansion and Improvement Program to increase and improve E&T services throughout the state.

THE PROBLEM

Over 1.5 million jobs have been lost as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been predicted that many of those jobs may not return for years, if ever. This highlights the need for job training and reskilling that prepare impacted workers to return to employment and access quality jobs.

BACKGROUND

CalFresh E&T aims to increase the employment and earning capacity of CalFresh recipients by providing them with employment and training services, supportive services, job skills and credentialing. Thirty-seven of California's counties voluntarily operate E&T programs.

SOLUTION

SB 609 expands and improves the CalFresh E&T program by:

- requiring state contracts for CalFresh E&T program services established under the CalFresh E&T Expansion and Improvement Program include

performance expectations and outcome measures;

- requiring federal reimbursements received as a result of the CalFresh E&T Expansion and Improvement Program be reinvested into the Program; and,
- expanding the list of individuals who are eligible for E&T include those who lost employment as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

SB 609 recognizes the importance of adult education and career technical education by requiring the state, as permitted by federal law, designate enrollment in these educational programs as meeting CalFresh student work requirements.

SB 609 also requires the state to seek out contracts that provide E&T services that are reflective of regional workforce needs and focus on serving specified populations, including those that serve individuals who are candidates for adult education and career technical education.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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