



AB 614 – Food Donation Tax Credit Expansion

SUMMARY

This bill would expand the list of eligible food items that may be donated to a Food Bank to include both fresh and processed foods to help increase access to food insecure Californians.

BACKGROUND

California's agricultural industry is the leading producer of agricultural products in the United States, and is a major contributing factor to California's position as the fifth largest economy in the world. However, nearly one in every eight Californians faces some type of food insecurity. While the San Joaquin Valley produces nearly half of our nation's fresh produce, it also has some of the highest rates of food insecurity.

In a 2017 study conducted by the US Department of Agriculture, researchers found that nearly fifteen million American households were food insecure, or had very low food security. While in California, it is estimated that over six million Californians, including one in every four children, are food insecure.

Nearly 1 million Californians, both urban and rural, live in food deserts and spend an inordinate amount of time and money simply trying to find healthful food for their families. Food banks often provide relief for these food insecure families who do not have access to fresh and healthy foods.

While current law allows agricultural growers to receive a state tax credit for donating surplus produce, the categories of eligible items that may be donated are limited to fresh fruits and vegetables. Many food items that most households would consider to be staples—such as infant formula, nuts, rice, meat, and dairy—are excluded from this list.

By expanding the list of qualified donation items AB 614 would help to alleviate the food insecurity that so many Californian families face each year.

THIS BILL

AB 614 would increase access to the food donation tax credit for agricultural growers by expanding the list of qualified donation items to food banks and other non-profit organizations by including other fresh food items not currently in statute, as well as various shelf-stable dietary staples.

SUPPORT

California Association of Food Banks (co-sponsor)
Californians Against Waste (co-sponsor)
California Food Producers
Dignity Health
Kings Community Action Organization
Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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