

LEGISLATIVE BILLS FOR CONSIDERATION

May 2010

Bill	Author	Affected Department's) or Service	Summary Text	Support/ Oppose	CSAC Position	Impact to County	STATUS
AB 2503	Perez, J.	County revenues	Repeals the California Artificial Reef Program and enacts the California Marine Life Legacy Act to establish a program of artificial reef research and development, administered by the department of Fish and Game. The act would authorize the department to approve the conversion of an offshore oil platform or production facility into an artificial reef, if specified criteria are satisfied. The act would require the department to determine the cost savings of a conversion, and would require the owner or operator, when all applicable permits are granted for conversion, to apportion a percentage of the cost savings funds in accordance with a prescribed schedule to the California Endowment for Marine Preservation and the county immediately adjacent to the location of the facility. The bill would establish the California Endowment for Marine Preservation, subject to the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law, in order to create a permanent source of funding for projects that will conserve, protect, restore, and enhance the open coastal marine resources of the state.		Watch	Small potential additional revenues to County as a result of conversion of abandoned oil platforms to artificial reefs. Potential environmental impacts as a result of oil platforms allowed to remain without any restrictions as to size or duration. Potential for marine habitat restoration in Santa Barbara County through newly created Marine Preservation fund. Requires platform owners to prove net environmental benefit of reefing vs. complete removal.	5/19/2010 - In committee: Set, first hearing. Referred to Appropriations suspense file.
AB 1642	Beall	Social Services	This bill would simplify Food Stamp and CalWORKs reporting requirements and CalWORKs income thresholds. Simplifying the process and requiring recipients to report on a semiannual versus a quarterly basis will help save administrative and caseload costs and remove barriers for clients and could help increase participation in the Food Stamps program. Because food stamp benefits are paid for 100% by the federal government under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), increasing food stamp participation greatly increases the flow of federal funds into the state. The state and county can anticipate additional General Fund revenues due to increased taxable purchases by recipients. Research shows that low income families spend approximately 45% of their income on taxable goods. By providing these families with food stamps, 45% of the money they previously spent to purchase food could be used for purchasing taxable goods.	Support	Support	Streamlines the reporting requirements for CalWORKs and Food Stamps. Would simplify safety-net programs for low-income families.	4/28/2010 - In committee: set, first hearing. Referred to Appropriations suspense file.
AB 537	Arambula	Social Services	This bill would require Certified farmers' markets (CME's) to operate an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system, or to allow a third party Food Nutrition Service to operate at EBT system at the market so food stamp (SNAP) recipients can buy low-cost fresh, local produce directly from farmers. When the federal government switched from paper food stamps to EBT, access to CME's became non-existent to individuals and families receiving public assistance. This bill attempts to reestablish that access.	Support	Watch	Food stamp recipients would have access to low-cost, nutritious fruits and vegetables. Local farmers will increase their revenues by having access to more consumers.	4/28/2010 - From Committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to committee. Read second time, amended, and rereferred to Committee on Human Services.
AB 2018	Skinner	Social Services	This bill would require the State Department of Social Services to establish an "inter-county transfer" process for food stamp recipients who move across county lines. This change would maintain recipients' eligibility and allow them to avoid a break in benefits without having to submit a new food stamp application. Similar transfer processes already exist in CalWORKs and Medi-Cal. This bill would use those existing processes for food stamp recipients who are also enrolled in those programs.	Support	Support	Would simplify safety-net programs for low-income families.	5/20/2010 - Read second time. To third reading