



AB 669- Taxation: Sweetened Beverage Tax: Children’s Health Promotion Fund

SUMMARY OF THE BILL: This bill would impose a tax on every distributor, as defined, for the privilege of distributing in this state bottled sweetened beverages, sweetened beverages, and concentrate at the rate of \$0.01 per fluid ounce on bottled sweetened beverages and sweetened beverages distributed in this state, or at the rate of \$0.01 per fluid ounce of sweetened beverage to be produced from concentrate distributed in this state.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Support

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION/IMPACT TO COUNTY

AB 669 could raise \$1.7 billion for childhood obesity programs. AB 669 draws a direct line between a 228% increase in soda consumption and the costly childhood obesity epidemic in California. Research also indicates that 41% of California children 2 to 11 years of age, and 62% of California teens 12 to 17 years of age drink soda daily. For every additional serving of sweetened beverage consumed by a child per day, the likelihood of that child becoming obese increases by 60%. According to the County Public Health Department, 33.5% of children ages 2-5 years old in the WIC program for low-income families are overweight or obese. According to the Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System, 45.5% of children ages 5-20 years old in lower-income families within the County are overweight or obese. There are several local activities and programs that could be supported with funds from AB 669 revenue such as:

- Funding for payments of scholarship fees for team sports, team uniforms and shoes, and loaned sports equipment for public parks and recreation departments, school-based after-school sports programs, and for Boys and Girls Clubs and Girls, Inc. – all of which serve low-income children and youth in cities and unincorporated communities;
- Sponsoring part-time positions for healthy cooking classes specifically geared toward low-income families, children and youth in the organizations listed above;
- Sidewalks and improved lighting for walking safety in low-income neighborhoods, and recreational fields and tracks in cities and in unincorporated communities. Many low-income areas have sidewalks that are disjointed, unsafe (e.g. next to high-speed traffic) and/or poorly maintained. Many are entirely without sidewalks. Adequate night lighting for safety is lacking in these same neighborhoods and at some public outdoor tracks;
- Purchasing of healthy produce and staples by the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County, which serves low-income families in need of nutritious food;
- Funding part-time positions to manage free community garden plots in each community; and
- Funding for medical and dental insurance for more low-income families.

POSSIBLE SUPPORTERS

County Public Health Departments, California Center for Public Health Advocacy.

POSSIBLE OPPOSITION

Sweetened beverage manufactures

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