

[Home](#)[Bill Information](#)[California Law](#)[Publications](#)[Other Resources](#)[My Subscriptions](#)[My Favorites](#)

AB-1734 Count Hunger Act. (2025-2026)

SHARE THIS:



Date Published: 02/05/2026 09:00 PM

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2025–2026 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

NO. 1734**Introduced by Assembly Member Stefani****February 05, 2026**

An act to add Chapter 26 (commencing with Section 28050) to Division 20 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to nutrition.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1734, as introduced, Stefani. Count Hunger Act.

Existing law declares the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to access sufficient affordable and healthy food. Existing law defines food insecurity as the occasional or constant lack of access to the food one needs to live a healthy life and the uncertainty of being able to acquire enough food to meet the needs of an individual or household due to insufficient money or other resources.

Existing law requires the State Department of Public Health to consider the above-described state policy when establishing grant criteria pertinent to the distribution of sufficient affordable food. Existing law requires the department to administer or oversee various programs addressing nutrition, including, among other things, pupil access to healthy food and the California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

This bill, the Count Hunger Act, would require the department to establish a 2-year pilot program, in collaboration with the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), to ensure that certain sets of questions linked to food insecurity are funded and covered within the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS). The bill would define CHIS as the statewide health survey administered by UCLA and conducted annually through interviews with thousands of households in the state, as specified.

Under the bill, the CHIS portion relating to food insecurity would apply to all households whose income is at or below 400% of the federal poverty level. The bill would require UCLA, in collaboration with the department, to publish any available statewide-, regional-, and county-level data, as feasible, that are linked to the food insecurity portion, as specified.

The bill would condition implementation of these provisions on an appropriation by the Legislature and a resolution by the Regents of the University of California, for implementation in the 2027 and 2028 calendar years or as otherwise specified.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the Count Hunger Act.

SEC. 2. Chapter 26 (commencing with Section 28050) is added to Division 20 of the Health and Safety Code, to read:

CHAPTER 26. California Health Interview Survey

28050. For purposes of this chapter, "California Health Interview Survey" or "CHIS" means the statewide health survey administered by the University of California at Los Angeles in collaboration with state departments and other agencies, and conducted annually through interviews with thousands of households in the state. The survey addresses various health matters, including, but not limited to, use of and access to health care, health conditions and behaviors, and a range of topics that influence health, such as public program participation, housing, income and employment, climate change, food, gun violence, and adverse childhood experiences.

28051. (a) The State Department of Public Health shall establish a two-year pilot program, in collaboration with UCLA, to ensure that the sets of questions linked to food insecurity, as those sets were implemented in the California Health Interview Survey for the 2025 calendar year, are funded and covered within the CHIS for purposes of the two years of the pilot program as described in paragraph (3) of subdivision (d).

(b) Within the sample of households surveyed for CHIS purposes, the CHIS portion relating to food insecurity, as described in subdivision (a), shall apply to all households whose income is at or below 400 percent of the federal poverty level.

(c) (1) UCLA, in collaboration with the department, shall publish any available statewide-, regional-, and county-level data, as feasible, that are linked to the food insecurity portion described in subdivision (a). UCLA shall post those data on the AskCHIS reporting tool of the CHIS internet website in a manner accessible to the public.

(2) Data published or posted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall exclude any personally identifiable information.

(d) (1) This section shall be implemented upon appropriation made by the Legislature for this purpose.

(2) This section shall not be applicable to UCLA unless the Regents of the University of California, by resolution, make this section applicable.

(3) The two-year pilot program described in this section shall be implemented for the 2027 and 2028 calendar years, or two subsequent calendar years, whichever is earlier based on when the appropriation described in paragraph (1) is made available.