

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 17, 2001

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 1, 2001

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 17, 2001

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 313

Introduced by Assembly Member Goldberg

February 16, 2001

An act to amend Sections 123302 and 123321 of, and to add and repeal Section 123296 of, the Health and Safety Code, relating to maternal and child health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 313, as amended, Goldberg. Women, infants, and children's nutrition.

Existing law, the California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children, under the administration of the State Department of Health Services, provides for the issuance of nutrition coupons, as defined, to certain recipients with nutritional need, as determined by a physician or health professional.

This bill would *provide*, until January 1, 2005, ~~provide~~ that the nutrition coupons issued under the program shall be redeemable by recipients at any authorized retail food vendor, *and would require the department to submit a report to the appropriate committees of the Legislature regarding the implementation of the above provisions.*

Under existing law, the department is required to include specified information on the nutrition coupons. The bill would require, to the extent feasible, that the specified information provided by the

department on the nutrition coupons shall be provided in a form that may be read by optical scanning technology readily available to vendors. *The bill would further require that the specified information shall be provided only to the extent that funds for that purpose are appropriated in the annual Budget Act or another statute.*

Existing law authorizes the department to design, implement, and fund an electronic benefits transfer (EBT) system for the California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

This bill would make a nonsubstantive change to the provisions authorizing the department to design, implement, and fund the above EBT system.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 123296 is added to the Health and
2 Safety Code, to read:

3 123296. (a) Nutrition coupons shall be redeemable by
4 recipients at any authorized retail food vendor.

5 (b) On or before July 1, 2004, the department shall submit a
6 report to the appropriate committees of the Legislature on the
7 impact of the implementation of this section.

8 (c) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1,
9 2005, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,
10 that is enacted before January 1, 2005, deletes or extends that date.

11 SEC. 2. Section 123302 of the Health and Safety Code is
12 amended to read:

13 123302. (a) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
14 the department may design, implement, and fund an electronic
15 benefits transfer (EBT) system for the California Special
16 Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children.
17 Sections 10066, 10067, and 10068 of, and subdivision (j) of
18 Section 10072 of, the Welfare and Institutions Code, shall apply
19 to the administration of this section.

20 (2) The department may not implement any EBT system
21 authorized by this section until the department completes a
22 feasibility study, and funding for the system is provided in the
23 annual Budget Act.



1 (b) The department shall seek the advice of the Electronic
2 Benefits Transfer Committee, created by Section 10067 of the
3 Welfare and Institutions Code, in implementing this section, and
4 shall obtain the approval of the United States Department of
5 Agriculture, which is the federal governing agency, prior to the
6 establishment of any EBT system.

7 SEC. 3. (a) Section 123320 of the Health and Safety Code is
8 amended to read:

9 123320. The department shall inform the retail food vendors
10 of, and include in the written agreement with, the vendors,
11 guidelines consistent with Section 123315 and shall print on each
12 coupon the following:

13 (1) Specific supplemental foods and the quantities thereof for
14 which the coupon may be redeemed.

15 (2) The valid period of the nutrition coupon.

16 (3) The maximum value for which the nutrition coupon may be
17 redeemed.

18 (b) To the extent feasible, the information required pursuant to
19 subdivision (a) shall be provided in a form that may be read by
20 optical scanning technology readily available to vendors.

21 (c) *This section shall only be implemented to the extent that*
22 *funds for its purposes are appropriated in the annual Budget Act*
23 *or another statute.*

