

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 20, 2001

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 18, 2001

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 31, 2001

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 17, 2001

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 1, 2001

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 17, 2001

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

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**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 313**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Goldberg**

February 16, 2001

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An act to amend Sections 123302 and 123320 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, commencing July 1, 2002, provide, until January 1, 2005, 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. This bill would also require the department to report to the Legislature, no later than March 15, 2002, on the feasibility and costs of providing the information in this form. 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.~~ *require the department to develop a plan to determine the feasibility of implementing the EBT system by January 1, 2003, and to report to the Legislature regarding implementation of the new system by July 1, 2003.*

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, including an
- 8 assessment of the impact of this section on fraud and the integrity
- 9 of the program.
- 10 (c) This section shall become operative July 1, 2002.



1 (d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1,  
2 2005, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,  
3 that is enacted before January 1, 2005, deletes or extends that date.

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

6 123302. (a) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law,  
7 the department may design, implement, and fund an electronic  
8 benefits transfer (EBT) system for the California Special  
9 Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children.  
10 Sections 10066, 10067, and 10068 of, and subdivision (j) of  
11 Section 10072 of, the Welfare and Institutions Code, shall apply  
12 to the administration of this section.

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

17 (b) The department shall seek the advice of the Electronic  
18 Benefits Transfer Committee, created by Section 10067 of the  
19 Welfare and Institutions Code, in implementing this section, and  
20 shall obtain the approval of the United States Department of  
21 Agriculture, which is the federal governing agency, prior to the  
22 establishment of any EBT system.

23 (c) The department shall develop ~~and implement~~ *a plan to*  
24 *determine the feasibility of implementing* an EBT system for the  
25 California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women,  
26 Infants, and Children by January 1, ~~2004~~ 2003, and shall report to  
27 the Legislature on its progress to implement the system by July 1,  
28 2003.

29 SEC. 3. Section 123320 of the Health and Safety Code is  
30 amended to read:

31 123320. (a) The department shall inform the retail food  
32 vendors of, and include in the written agreement with the vendors,  
33 guidelines consistent with Section 123315, and shall print on each  
34 coupon the following:

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

37 (2) The period of validity of the nutrition coupon.

38 (3) The maximum value for which the nutrition coupon may be  
39 redeemed.



1 (b) To the extent feasible, the information required pursuant to  
2 subdivision (a) shall be provided in a form that may be read by  
3 optical scanning technology readily available to vendors. The  
4 department shall, no later than March 15, 2002, report to the  
5 Legislature on the feasibility and costs of providing the  
6 information in this form.

7 (c) This section shall be implemented only to the extent that  
8 funds for its purposes are appropriated in the annual Budget Act  
9 or another statute.

10 SEC. 4. By making Section 123296 of the Health and Safety  
11 Code operative on July 1, 2002, the Legislature intends to provide  
12 the State Department of Health Services sufficient time to ensure  
13 that it can monitor where California Special Supplemental Food  
14 Program for Women, Infants, and Children vouchers are cashed  
15 and that the department will have sufficient data to conduct  
16 inventory audits to protect the integrity of the program.

