

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 727

Introduced by Assembly Member Mitchell

February 17, 2011

An act to add Chapter 6.5 (commencing with Section 12405) to Part 2 of Division 2 of the Public Contract Code, relating to public contracts.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 727, as introduced, Mitchell. Healthy and sustainable food procurement.

Existing law governing contracting between state agencies and private contractors sets forth requirements for the procurement of supplies, materials, equipment, and services by state agencies and sets forth the various responsibilities of the Department of General Services and other state agencies in overseeing and implementing state contracting procedures and policies.

This bill would require the department to develop nutrition standards to govern the foods purchased for all state departments, agencies, and state-run institutions in accordance with the federal dietary guidelines. This bill would also require the department to develop prescribed guidelines for sustainable purchasing practices and procedures that encourage purchasing from local vendors, farms, and manufacturers when feasible. This bill would authorize the department to consult with the Department of Public Health in developing these standards and guidelines.

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. Chapter 6.5 (commencing with Section 12405)
2 is added to Part 2 of Division 2 of the Public Contract Code, to
3 read:

4
5 CHAPTER 6.5. HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD
6 PROCUREMENT ACT
7

8 12405. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

9 (a) Access to safe and nutritious foods is essential to a person’s
10 health.

11 (b) Hunger, food insecurity, and poor nutrition are critical issues
12 that require immediate and sustained action to be reduced and
13 eliminated.

14 (c) The way that we process, grow, and develop foods and food
15 policy has a short-and-long-term economic and environmental
16 effect on our local communities and the state overall.

17 (d) Sustainable food systems can provide nutritious foods for
18 all people, shorten the distance between food consumers and
19 producers, protect workers’ health and welfare, minimize
20 environmental effects, and strengthen connections between urban
21 and rural communities.

22 (e) As one of the leading agricultural states in the nation,
23 California has the potential to serve as a model state promoting
24 procurement policies that reflect the goals of healthy eating,
25 sustainability, and supporting local economies.

26 12406. (a) The Department of General Services shall develop
27 nutrition standards to govern the foods purchased for all state
28 departments, agencies, and state-run institutions in accordance
29 with the federal dietary guidelines developed by the United States
30 Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of
31 Health and Human Services.

32 (b) The Department of General Services shall develop guidelines
33 for sustainable purchasing practices and procedures that encourage
34 purchasing from local vendors, farms, and manufacturers when
35 feasible. The guidelines shall serve as a model for purchasing
36 goods and services in ways that have the least impact on the
37 environment, promote healthy and nutritious foods, and support
38 local economies.

- 1 (c) For the purposes of this section, the Department of General
- 2 Services may consult with the State Department of Public Health.

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