

AB 2335

Corner Stores

Assemblymember
Phil Ting
19TH DISTRICT



SUMMARY

Every person deserves to access to healthy and nutritious food. This bill would bring healthier food options to communities that are low-income and lack accessibility to grocery stores.

BACKGROUND

The overall health of a person is closely linked to their income and proximity to grocery stores. According to data from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) from 2013-15, 12.6 percent of California households were living with food insecurity, meaning that these neighborhoods were living with low-quality, variety, or desirability of diet.

Food deserts are neighborhoods where residents have low access to supermarkets. Typically these neighborhoods are low-income urban areas, and residents have no choice but to get their groceries from corner stores, many of which do not stock fresh produce.

The USDA found that the following counties in 2015 had thousands living in low-income and low-access areas:

- Alameda – 15,141
- San Francisco – 2,592
- Los Angeles – 161,790
- San Diego – 95,163

As a result, the people living in these neighborhoods must resort to purchasing and consuming unhealthy foods that are often found at local corner stores or fast food restaurants. This contributes to diet-related diseases and ultimately, to poor health.

Many corner stores are small, locally-owned businesses that cannot afford to purchase

additional refrigeration units. In order to get small businesses to stock healthy fresh produce choices in their markets, incentives are needed to assist these businesses.

In 2015, AB 1321 (Ting) was enacted to create the Nutrition Incentive Matching Grant Program, which provides a matching grant to certified farmer's markets to double the value of purchases made at the markets. The bill allowed small businesses access to the same grants, however the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) found implementation challenges.

THIS BILL

AB 2335 would create the Small Business Nutrition Incentive Program within CDFA. The program would provide grant incentives to corner stores and other small-scale stores with a limited selection of food products to purchase energy efficient refrigeration. Eligible businesses in the counties of Alameda, Los Angeles, and San Diego and the City and County of San Francisco, would agree to stock fresh produce in the purchased refrigeration units.

Additionally, this bill would make adjustments to the Nutrition Incentive Matching Grant Program to allow providers earlier access to the grant funds.

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