



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2008

LCO No. 5572

SB0034405572SD0

Offered by:

SEN. HARRIS, 5th Dist.
REP. VILLANO, 91st Dist.
REP. ABERCROMBIE, 83rd Dist.
SEN. COLEMAN, 2nd Dist.
SEN. KISSEL, 7th Dist.
REP. GIBBONS, 150th Dist.
REP. MUSHINSKY, 85th Dist.

REP. KIRKLEY-BEY, 5th Dist.
REP. WALKER, 93rd Dist.
SEN. HARP, 10th Dist.
SEN. HANDLEY, 4th Dist.
REP. TRUGLIA, 145th Dist.
REP. MORRIS, 140th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 344

File No. 594

Cal. No. 391

**"AN ACT CONCERNING FAMILY PROSPERITY AND THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CHILD POVERTY AND
PREVENTION COUNCIL."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) (a) As used in sections 1
4 to 5, inclusive, of this act:

5 (1) "Poverty reduction strategies" means a coordinated set of actions
6 which may include, but is not limited to, job search and work
7 experience; education and training, including adult basic education,
8 high school equivalency preparation, adult literacy classes, vocational
9 training and post-secondary education; payment of tuition; case

10 management; related services that improve employability; income
11 safety net services; quality child care during work and job training;
12 family support; and reentry programs, that are based on best practices
13 and aimed at reducing poverty or the risk of poverty for individuals
14 and families (A) who are living in census tracts with high poverty
15 rates, (B) whose incomes are between fifty and two hundred per cent
16 of the federal poverty level, and (C) who are in one or more of the
17 following target populations: (i) Adolescent parents, (ii) older
18 adolescents and young adults, or (iii) low-income working families;
19 and

20 (2) "Food stamp employment and training community
21 collaborative" means a consortium of public and private providers,
22 established pursuant to section 3 of this act, to plan and implement
23 poverty reduction strategies.

24 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) (a) The Department of Social
25 Services shall administer a food stamp employment and training
26 program, authorized under the federal Food Stamp Act of 1977, as
27 amended from time to time, to provide employment and training
28 activities, support services and other programs and services for
29 recipients of the food stamp program. The program shall provide for
30 the receipt of federal matching funds to the state from the United
31 States Department of Agriculture for funds expended on behalf of food
32 stamp recipients by state agencies, local governments, nonprofit
33 entities, institutions of higher education and other eligible food stamp
34 employment and training providers for employment and training
35 activities that qualify for such matching funds under federal law and
36 regulations. The department shall seek to maximize the use of the
37 federal matching funds provision under the program to the fullest
38 extent permitted by federal law.

39 (b) Federal grants received under the program shall be used in
40 accordance with federal law and regulations to fund food stamp
41 employment and training activities.

42 (c) The department shall select providers whose employment and
43 training activities qualify for reimbursement under federal law and
44 regulations to participate in the federal matching funds provision of
45 the food stamp employment and training program. Providers shall be
46 selected in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of
47 Social Services. In selecting providers, the department shall give
48 priority to providers who are members of a food stamp employment
49 and training community collaborative and whose strategies are aligned
50 with the recommendations of the Child Poverty and Prevention
51 Council and its plan to reduce child poverty developed pursuant to
52 section 4-67x of the general statutes.

53 (d) The department shall distribute to providers pursuant to
54 subsection (c) of this section federal matching funds in accordance
55 with section 4 of this act. Such funds shall be used for poverty
56 reduction strategies.

57 (e) The Child Poverty and Prevention Council shall implement
58 strategies to raise public awareness of the food stamp employment and
59 training program and shall provide assistance to providers and food
60 stamp employment and training collaboratives receiving federal
61 matching funds pursuant to this section and section 4 of this act.

62 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) (a) The Department of Social
63 Services shall select food stamp employment and training community
64 collaboratives to receive federal matching funds in accordance with
65 section 4 of this act. To be eligible for receipt of such funds, each
66 collaborative shall submit an application to the department in such
67 form and in such manner as the Commissioner of Social Services
68 prescribes. In the application, the collaborative shall identify (1) its
69 priorities for reducing child poverty in such municipality or region, (2)
70 how funds that are received by the collaborative will be utilized, and
71 (3) community partners and resources utilized to support poverty
72 reduction strategies.

73 (b) Each food stamp employment and training community

74 collaborative shall establish a governance structure, determine
75 membership and identify or establish a fiscal agent. A collaborative
76 shall consist of at least five member entities representing institutions of
77 higher education, regional workforce development boards, social
78 services nonprofit agencies, business associations, philanthropic
79 organizations, municipalities, community action agencies and other
80 community partners. A majority of the membership of each
81 collaborative shall be food stamp employment and training providers.

82 (c) Funds provided to a food stamp employment and training
83 community collaborative shall be used to plan and implement poverty
84 reduction strategies in a municipality or region. Such strategies shall
85 be aligned with the recommendations of the Child Poverty and
86 Prevention Council and its plan to reduce child poverty developed
87 pursuant to section 4-67x of the general statutes.

88 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) (a) The Department of Social
89 Services may use such funds from the federal matching funds received
90 by the state pursuant to section 2 of this act as are needed for operating
91 expenses and to employ up to two staff positions for purposes directly
92 related to the administration of the matching funds provision for the
93 food stamp employment and training program.

94 (b) The remaining federal matching funds received by the state
95 pursuant to section 2 of this act shall be used for poverty reduction
96 strategies and distributed in the following manner: Seventy-five per
97 cent of such remaining funds shall be provided to food stamp
98 employment and training providers whose expenditures generated the
99 federal matching funds on a pro-rata basis, pursuant to section 2 of this
100 act; and twenty-five per cent of such remaining funds shall be
101 provided to food stamp employment and training community
102 collaboratives selected pursuant to section 3 of this act for planning
103 and implementation of poverty reduction strategies.

104 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) On or before January 15,
105 2009, and annually thereafter from January 15, 2010, to January 15,

106 2014, inclusive, the Commissioner of Social Services shall report, in
 107 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
 108 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
 109 matters relating to human services and appropriations, and to the
 110 Child Poverty and Prevention Council on the amount of federal
 111 matching funds received by the state pursuant to section 2 of this act,
 112 the amount used by the Department of Social Services for operating
 113 and administrative expenses, the amounts distributed to providers and
 114 food stamp employment and training community collaboratives
 115 pursuant to section 4 of this act, the use of such federal matching
 116 funds, including the population served, and the programs' outcomes
 117 using a results-based accountability framework.

118 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) The Department of Social
 119 Services, in conjunction with the member agencies of the Child Poverty
 120 and Prevention Council, may work with local governments,
 121 institutions of higher education, community action agencies and other
 122 entities to continue and expand efforts, within available
 123 appropriations, to enroll eligible individuals in the food stamp
 124 program and to enroll eligible food stamp participants in education,
 125 employment and training activities."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section