

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code - Biennial Food Security and Equity Report]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to direct the Department of Public Health to report biennially on food security and equity, with input from other departments.

Existing Law

There is currently no legal requirement for the Department of Public Health (“DPH”) to publish a food security and equity report. Under Article X, Chapter 5 of the Administrative Code, there exists the Food Security Task Force that receives clerical and logistical support from DPH. The Task Force is charged with recommending to the Board of Supervisors legislative action and City-wide strategies to address hunger and enhance the food security of City residents. The Task Force is also required to prepare an annual assessment on the state of hunger and food insecurity in the City.

Amendments to Current Law

The Proposed Legislation would amend the Administrative Code to require DPH to publish a biennial report on food security and equity in the City. The Proposed Legislation would also codify a method for DPH to solicit data for the report from other City departments. DPH would first send health equity-related data to other City departments along with a framework informing the departments how to apply that data. Within 120 days of receiving the health equity data from DPH, the departments would apply the data to food- or nutrition-related programs or services those departments provide and then send that resulting information back to DPH along with any policy or budget recommendations. The Proposed Legislation clarifies that departments are not required to gather new data and would only send existing information to DPH. DPH would then use each department’s information to draft the report.

The report would address at least the following topics: (1) information on the current state of food insecurity in the City; (2) information describing food-related programs or services delivered to City residents; (3) analysis of the system infrastructure used to support food security; (4) analysis of health and other inequities as applied to food security programs; and (5) policy and budget recommendations. The Proposed Legislation would also require the Food Security Task Force to consult with DPH in drafting the report and would require the Office of Racial Equity to assist in soliciting data from City-funded community-based organizations that provide food security-related services. Finally, DPH would present the report to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor.

Background Information

Currently, the Food Security Task Force is required to produce an annual assessment of the state of hunger and food insecurity in the City. The Proposed Legislation is intended to create a more robust report that solicits input from City departments and other entities that have programs or services relating to food security. The Proposed Legislation would identify City populations that are food insecure and those that are receiving City-sponsored food-related services. It would also answer whether those City services adequately address health and other inequities and what barriers to food security exist. The answers to those questions could then be used to target future food service programs to appropriate City populations and reduce barriers to service for those populations. The Proposed Legislation would complement a separate proposed legislation that in turn would establish a grant-supported food empowerment market fund, which would be administered by the Human Services Agency. The report produced by this Proposed Legislation would inform where to target grants issued by the food empowerment market fund and also receive information from grantees of the fund for inclusion in future food security and equity reports.

n:\legana\as2021\2100367\01531066.docx