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**AB-802 Juvenile justice commission: hunger survey.** (2025-2026)

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2025–2026 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**NO. 802**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Sharp-Collins**

**February 18, 2025**

An act to add Section 229.4 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to juveniles.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

AB 802, as introduced, Sharp-Collins. Juvenile justice commission: hunger survey.

Existing law establishes in each county a juvenile justice commission, but authorizes the boards of supervisors of 2 or more adjacent counties to agree to establish a regional juvenile justice commission in lieu of a county juvenile justice commission. Existing law requires a juvenile justice commission, among other things, to inquire into the administration of the juvenile court law in the county or region in which the commission serves and to annually inspect any jail or lockup within the county that, in the preceding calendar year, was used for confinement for more than 24 hours of any minor.

This bill would require a juvenile justice commission to, or work with a local community-based organization to, administer, at least once every 24 months, a survey of youth younger than 26 years of age who are confined in county juvenile halls, camps, and other facilities used for the confinement of youth, in order to ascertain whether confined youth are chronically or often hungry, whether confined youth have regular access to food between meals, whether confined youth have adequate time for meals, and the quality of the food confined youth are provided. The bill would require a juvenile justice commission to, if that survey indicates that confined youth are often or chronically hungry, make recommendations for changes to county policies to address that hunger. The bill would require the results of the survey and any recommendations made to be posted on the juvenile justice commission's internet website and would require a description of any remedial or corrective actions the county takes to address issues found as a result of the survey to be published on the county probation department's internet website. By imposing new duties on juvenile justice commissions and county probation departments, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: yes

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1.** Section 229.4 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

**229.4.** (a) In order to prevent and address hunger of youth held in county confinement, to ascertain whether the nutritional needs of those youth are being met, to make public recommendations to prevent hunger and to promote healthy development of those youth, and ultimately to provide for the nutritional needs of those youth, a juvenile justice commission shall administer, or work with a local community-based organization to administer, at least once every 24 months, a survey of youth younger than 26 years of age who are confined in county juvenile halls, camps, and other facilities used for the confinement of youth.

(b) A survey administered pursuant to subdivision (a) shall seek to ascertain whether confined youth are chronically or often hungry, whether confined youth have regular access to food between meals, whether confined youth have adequate time for meals, and the quality of the food confined youth are provided.

(c) If results of each survey administered pursuant to subdivision (a) indicate that confined youth are often or chronically hungry, the juvenile justice commission shall make recommendations for changes to county policies to address that hunger. When making recommendations, the juvenile justice commission shall take the following into account:

(1) Providing sufficient calories to meet youths' minimum caloric needs, by itself, is not adequate to address hunger and nutrition in county confinement facilities.

(2) Physically active confined youth who are preparing for, or participating in, rigorous activities, including, but not limited to, support for fire prevention or suppression, shall be assumed to be in need of additional healthy food to prevent hunger and to promote healthy development.

(3) Confined youth and their families shall not be responsible for the costs of addressing the hunger and nutritional needs of confined youth and those costs shall not be passed on to confined youth or their families. The cost of meals, snacks, and necessary food is the responsibility of the counties.

(d) The results of each survey administered pursuant to subdivision (a) and any recommendations made pursuant to subdivision (c) shall be published on the internet website of the juvenile justice commission. If the county takes remedial or corrective actions to address issues found as a result of the survey, a description of the remedial or corrective action shall be published on the internet website of the county probation department.

**SEC. 2.** If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.