

INTRODUCTION

This report is the second of a series of legislative and policy trend assessment reports providing regular updates to all Share Our Strength staff and state advocacy partners. This report provides legislative and policy trends during the 2018/2019 state legislative sessions related to the School Breakfast Program (SBP), Afterschool meal and snack programs, Summer Nutrition Programs such as Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Summer EBT for Children (SEBTC), and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP.) It also incorporates states that have introduced bills to address child hunger and poverty issues by establishing task forces or hunger commissions or providing targeted grant funding.

SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

The section below provides major bills introduced by states that focus on expanding participation in and access to the SBP through different strategies including Breakfast After the Bell interventions. Some states also introduced bills that provide incentive funds to support the efforts of schools and school districts to establish or expand the SBP. Some of these legislative changes also had impacts on the National School Lunch Program.

Major Trends

During the 2019 legislative session, several states introduced bills that would positively impact the SBP and its operation in their schools and school districts. Five legislative developments and trends have been prominent:

- Require schools to implement a Breakfast After the Bell (BAB) program to increase access to and participation in the School Breakfast Program by low-income school-aged children.
- Incentivize BAB implementation by providing state funding.
- Eliminate the reduced-price copays for school breakfast and/or lunch.
- Address the unpaid school meals problem.
- Promote expanded use of the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) to allow high-poverty schools to provide free meals to all students at no cost.

Breakfast After the Bell Legislation

Breakfast After the Bell (BAB) is one of the most effective and efficient strategies to increase student participation in SBP. Twelve states have enacted statewide BAB legislation over the last few years. A growing number of states considered similar legislation in their 2019 legislative sessions—six states introduced BAB legislation, requiring schools meeting certain free and reduced-price eligibility thresholds to implement BAB programs. These states are Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, Rhode Island, Ohio, and Oregon.

Some of these states introduced a standalone BAB bill such as Maine and Oregon while other states have incorporated it as part of their appropriation bills such as Ohio, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Four states (Maine, Oregon, Massachusetts, and Ohio) have successfully enacted BAB requirement bills, making breakfast part of the school day. No Kid Hungry played a pivotal role in the passage of the BAB legislation in these states by providing crucial legislative and policy advocacy technical supports in collaboration with each state's campaign partners and community stakeholders.

Maine

ME LD 359 [Status: Enacted]

The bill provides funding for BAB implementation to schools with at least 50 percent free or reduced-price (FRP) eligibility starting in the school year 2019-2020. The legislature appropriated \$500,000 in state funds to support implementation efforts.

Massachusetts

MA HB 4000, Chapter 41[Status: Enacted]

Under this budget bill, all public K-12 schools where at least sixty percent or more students are eligible for FRP meals are required to offer all students a school breakfast after the instructional day has begun and the tardy bell rings. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is required to report to the Senate and House Ways and Means Committees regarding school compliance with the requirement to serve breakfast after the instructional day has begun including breakfast delivery models schools utilize and participation rates in the SBP.

Ohio

OH HB 166 [Status: Enacted]

Under this Omnibus Education bill, the state established a BAB requirement. Accordingly, in the first year after the effective operational date, schools with 70 percent and higher FRP eligible students are required to implement a BAB program. In the second year, schools with 60 percent and higher FRP eligible students are required to implement BAB. In the third year and every year thereafter, all schools with 50 percent and higher FRP eligible students are required to implement BAB. The board of education of a school district can grant a waiver for a school under its jurisdiction if it determines that a school cannot comply for financial reasons or a school district board has a successful breakfast program or partnership in place.

Oregon

OR HB 3427 [Status: Enacted]

Under the newly enacted Student Success Act, Oregon school districts are required to serve BAB *at no cost* to all students irrespective of grade levels at a school site where 70 percent or more of the students are eligible for FRP meals. The bill authorizes the Oregon Department of Education to provide \$5,000 per school site to purchase or upgrade equipment that is necessary to successfully serve breakfast after the beginning of the school day for schools required to implement the law. The bill also allows school districts and schools participating in CEP to be reimbursed the funding difference between the federal reimbursement they receive and the equivalent of receiving the full free federal reimbursement. It also extends the school meals income eligibility threshold for free meals up to 300% of the federal poverty line for students participating in non-CEP schools and reimburses the difference between the reimbursement they receive and the free federal reimbursement rate. Effective on July 1, 2020.

Missouri

MO H 2134 [Status: Failed]

The bill requires that in the school year 2018-19 and each school year thereafter, the following schools must offer BAB to each student, including any student who arrives late or who arrives by a different mode of transportation than most students:

- Any public school, including any charter school, in which 70 percent or more students were eligible for FRP meals in the previous school year; and
 - Any public school, including any charter school, which has an Individual Site Percentage for free or reduced-price meals of 70 percent or more and that is a Provision 2 or CEP school.
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Rhode Island

RI H 5151 [Status: Failed]

Under this budget bill, schools with 70 percent and higher free or reduced-price eligible students would be required to serve BAB to all students beginning in the school year 2020-2021. A school that can demonstrate that implementing the program would cause undue financial hardship may be granted a waiver.

Incentivizing Schools to Implement Breakfast After the Bell

States can appropriate funds to support and encourage schools to implement BAB. These funds can be restricted to schools that are implementing a specific type of breakfast model, such as Breakfast in the Classroom, or for schools with a high proportion of students that qualify for FRP meals. Four states pursued legislation this legislative session to encourage schools to implement BAB: California, Minnesota, Montana, and Virginia.

California

CA AB 74 [Status: Enacted]

Under this 2019-2020 budget bill (Education Trailer Bill) the legislature appropriated \$500,000 for local educational agencies that seek to start up or expand school breakfast programs by utilizing BAB models in schools where 60 percent or more of the student population are eligible for FRP school meals. The funds can be utilized to acquire resources that would facilitate the implementation of the law, such as kitchen supplies.

Virginia

VA HB 1700 [Status: Enacted]

In this budget bill, the legislature continued to provide funds as an incentive for BAB implementation in elementary, middle and high schools where student eligibility for free and reduced-price school lunch exceeds 45 percent. The state provides \$1,074,000 for school year 2018-2019 and \$1,074,000 for school year 2020-2021 in the form of per meal reimbursements to all eligible schools. The reimbursement is an additional \$0.05 per breakfast served in elementary schools and \$0.10 cents per breakfast served in middle and high schools. Schools serving traditional school breakfast before the bell are also eligible for these funds if they meet certain criteria. Schools participating in the BAB incentive are required to submit report documenting the educational impact of breakfast serving models implemented.

Minnesota

MN HB 1037 [Status: Failed]

Under this bill, the legislature establishes a voluntary BAB program by which schools are encouraged to increase access to and participation in the school breakfast program. Schools that participate in BAB are eligible to receive a per meal reimbursement based on established funding formula. A school that receives such funding is required to make breakfast available for all children at no cost.

Montana

MT HB 648 [Status: Failed]

Under this bill, the legislature would have appropriated \$250,000 to be used as an incentive for schools to adopt BAB service models. The funding targeted schools with 40 percent and above FRP eligible students. The incentive would provide an additional 5 cents for each free, reduced-price and paid meal served over the baseline year. In order to receive the incentive funding:

- A school with a breakfast participation rate of less than 70 percent needs to demonstrate at least 10 percent growth in breakfast participation among its FRP eligible students over the baseline year.
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- A school with a breakfast participation rate of greater than 70 percent needs to demonstrate at least a 5 percent growth in breakfast participation among its FRP eligible students over the baseline year.
- Depending on the availability of funding, a school that maintains 80 percent and above breakfast participation rate can be eligible for the incentive funding.
- In order to participate in the incentive funding, a school must opt-in at the beginning of the school year (by survey) to express interest and commitment to increasing breakfast participation.

Eliminating the Reduced-Price Copays in School Meals

Eliminating the reduced-price meals copay can help increase participation in the school breakfast program by increasing the number of children who can access free school meals. School meals are federally reimbursed based on free, reduced-price and paid meal categorizations, which are based on family income thresholds. Eliminating the reduced-price meals category would reduce the financial burden and barriers for families who are required to make these copayments. It would also help reduce administrative challenges for schools that are otherwise required to keep track of which students qualify for reduced-price meals, collect these copayments and ensure delinquent accounts are repaid. Four states have considered the elimination of the reduced-price meals policy: Maine, Nebraska, New York, and New Hampshire.

Maine

ME LD 1001 [Status: Enacted]

Under the biennial budget of 2020-2021 (LD 1001), the state has eliminated the reduced-price copay for school lunch and will cover the cost of reduced-price lunch for those children who were previously required to pay for it. The state has appropriated \$669,788 for fiscal year 2019/20 and \$584,483 for fiscal year 2020/21. Maine has also previously eliminated the reduced-price copay for school breakfast (Title 20, Chapter 223. §6602).

New Hampshire

NH SB 82 [Status: Enacted]

Under this bill, the state has eliminated the reduced-price copay for school breakfast and enabled breakfast to be provided at no cost to those children who were previously required to pay for reduced-price breakfast. An additional \$0.27 cents in state reimbursement is provided for schools that provide breakfast at no cost to each student eligible for reduced-price meals. Effective on July 1, 2019.

New York

NY SB 1503-D [Status: Enacted]

Under this FY2020 budget bill, the state provided \$2.3 million to eliminate the reduced-price copays for both school breakfast and lunch, effective July 1, 2019.

Nebraska

NE L 251 [Status: Pending, carryover]

Through the Child Hunger and Workforce Readiness Act, the state seeks to eliminate the reduced-price copays for both school lunch and breakfast. Public schools that participate in the school lunch or breakfast program are required to provide the reduced-price meal at no cost to such students. The bill authorizes the Department of Education to defray the cost of implementing this policy upon receiving an appropriation from the legislature.

Expanding Participation in the Community Eligibility Provision

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a federal meal service option, allowing high poverty schools and school districts to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students without the need to collect household meal applications. CEP has a range of benefits to schools and school districts including easing administrative burdens and increasing program efficiency, increasing student participation, eliminating unpaid meal balances, and reducing the stigma students face due to their free or reduced-price meal status.

South Carolina

SC H 4000 [Status: Enacted]

Under this appropriation bill (FY19/20), the state requires all school districts to identify students in poverty and increase their access to free school meals. In this regard, the bill specifically requires the local board of trustees of a school district in which all schools are eligible for CEP to adopt a resolution indicating participation. However, if a school district is unable to adopt CEP, the local board of trustees is required to issue a resolution indicating it is not participating along with a demonstrated reason for non-participation. It also requires that such a resolution must be presented in the public meeting agenda and be approved by the majority of the board members.

Oregon

OR HB 3427 [Status: Enacted]

Under the legislation, the state provides funding to cover the gap between the federal reimbursement for CEP and the full cost of providing school breakfast at no cost to all students. This would help encourage CEP eligible schools or groups of schools to participate in CEP, particularly those schools or districts that did not participate before due to financial viability concerns. Effective on July 1, 2020.

Washington State

WA H 1151 [Status: Enacted]

Under this legislation, the state seeks to increase the number of schools and districts that participate in CEP by requiring that the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) carry out activities that include but not limited to:

- develop and implement a plan to increase the number of schools participating in CEP, for school year 18-19 and subsequent years;
- work in collaboration with community-based organizations, national experts focused on hunger and nutrition familiar with CEP, school representatives that successfully implemented CEP and the state agency that is responsible for Medicaid Direct Certification, and;
- prepare an annual report that evaluates any barriers to CEP implementation, provides recommendations on policy and legislative solutions to overcome barriers, evaluates reasons potentially eligible schools and school districts decide not to adopt CEP, and evaluates approaches in other states to adopting CEP.

California

CA S 499 [Status: Pending, Carryover]

This bill establishes the California-Grown for Healthy Kids Program by which the state provides an additional 10 cents per breakfast reimbursement for schools to purchase fresh, California-grown fruits or vegetables. In order to be eligible for this incentive, schools must provide breakfast and/or lunch at no cost for all students by implementing a federal universal free meal options such as CEP and Provision 2.

Rhode Island

RI H 5151 [Status: Failed]

Under this budget bill, a school that has been eligible for the CEP under section 104 (a) of the federal Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 for two consecutive years or longer is required to implement it. A waiver may be granted to a school that can demonstrate that implementing the program would cause undue financial hardship. Effective date school year 2020/21.

Texas

TX S 1314 [Status: Failed]

Under this bill, the state seeks to increase the number of eligible school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to implement CEP. The bill requires the state education agency to notify each school district and open-enrollment charter school that is eligible for CEP that they are required to implement CEP. Eligible school districts and open-enrollment charter schools that are notified to implement but do not participate in CEP (at the majority of their eligible campuses) are required to perform an economic analysis. If such economic analysis demonstrates savings by participating in CEP, the eligible school district or open-enrollment charter school must consider participating in the program. Otherwise, the eligible school district or open-enrollment charter school must notify the education agency that it did not participate in the program, providing detailed reasons for non-participation.

Unpaid School Meal Legislation

Seven states have introduced bills that would tackle the discrimination and stigmatization that low-income students face at school due to school meal debts or unpaid school meal balances. This trend is in line with USDA's 2016 guidance that requires school districts participating in the National School Lunch or School Breakfast programs to establish and communicate local meal charge policy to parents and the school community. Ten states have introduced lunch shaming or unpaid meal debt-related bills in the 2018-2019 budget session.

Arkansas

AR H 1356 [Status: Enacted]

The bill titled as Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act, prohibits a school from providing a meal or snack that is different from the meal or snack being served to other students. If a student owes money for a meal or snack in excess of the amount charged a student for five lunches, the school or district can contact the parent or legal guardian to attempt to collect the owed money and request that the parent or guardian apply for meal benefits in a federal or state child nutrition program. A student who is not unable to pay or owes money for a meal or snack cannot be required to wear a wristband, a hand stamp or be required to dispose of a meal or snack after being served the meal or snack. The school is also prohibited from performing any other action that may stigmatize the student. The state department of education child nutrition unit is required, among other things, to implement a system for reviewing the local practices of public-school district food service programs to identify and determine the support needs of public-school districts.

Maine

ME H 130 [Status: Enacted]

The bill requires a public school in Maine to provide a meal to a student who requests it regardless of the ability to pay for it or failure in the past to pay for school meals. It prohibits a public school from requiring a student to throw away a meal after it has been served to a student or undertake chores or work as a means of paying for one or more meals or as punishment for not paying one or more meals. It also prohibits stigmatization of a

student by any action that may openly identify a student who can't pay for a meal or who has unpaid meal balances. The bill requires that unpaid meal balances must be communicated directly with the parents or legal guardian of the student, not directly with the student. A student may be asked to deliver the letter regarding unpaid meal balances to his or her parents.

South Carolina

SC H 4000 [Status: Enacted]

Under this budget bill, schools are prohibited from publicly identifying a student who is unable to pay for a meal for any reason. It also requires that communications from the school district regarding any meal debt owed must only be directed to the parent or guardian.

Arizona

AZ S 1416 [Status: Failed]

The bill requires the local educational agency to ensure that a student who has unpaid meal balances is not shamed or treated differently or served a meal that differs from what a student who does not have unpaid meal balances. The bill, however, does not prohibit a school from serving an alternative meal to a student who requires a special meal for a dietary or religious reason. The bill also prohibits a school from requiring a student who can't pay for a meal or who owes unpaid meal balances to perform chores or other work to pay for meals. The local educational agency is required to communicate with the parents or legal guardians of the student regarding the unpaid meal balance. However, prior to communicating the parent or legal guardian, the LEA is required to exhaust all options and methods to directly certify the student for free or reduced-price meals. LEA is prohibited from using debt to collect unpaid meal balances.

Illinois

IL H 427 [Status: carryover]

The bill requires that every school in Illinois provide a federally reimbursable meal or snack to a student of that school who requests the meal or snack, regardless of whether the student has the ability to pay for the meal or snack or owes money for earlier meals or snacks.

Montana

MT H 414 [Status: Failed]

The bill prohibits stigmatizing a student who cannot pay for a meal or has an unpaid meal balance. It specifically prohibits a school district employee, contractor or volunteer from taking any action that would stigmatize the student for being unable to pay for a meal that was previously served such as by requiring the student to wear a wristband, hand stamp or other identifying markers. It also requires the school district to direct all communication regarding unpaid meal balances to the parents or legal guardians of the student.

New Jersey

NJ A 4856 [Status: carryover]

The bill requires that all unpaid meal balance issues must be communicated directly to the student's parent or legal guardian. It prohibits a school district from actions or activities that would publicly identify or stigmatize a student who cannot pay for school breakfast or school lunch or who has unpaid meal balances. Such activities include requiring a student to sit at a separate table or wear a wrist band or hand stamp or serving the student an alternative meal. If the student owes money for the equivalent of five or more school meals, the bill also requires the school district to determine if the student is eligible for FRP meals and also make at least two attempts to contact the student's parent or guardian and have the guardian or parent fill out an application for the school lunch or breakfast program.

Texas

TX S 1314 [Status: Failed]

The bill prohibits a school district from publicly identifying a student with a negative balance on their meal card or account including any action that may affect the student's privacy. The bill establishes a grace period for students who use prepaid meal cards or accounts to purchase meals served at schools. The grace period policy allows students to continue to purchase regular meals amid accumulating negative balance on the student's card or account or receive an extension of credit from the district. A school district is allowed to privately contact the parent or other person standing as a parental relation to the student to inform them that the student's meal card or account balance is exhausted or to assist in completing an application on behalf of the student for FRP meals. After the expiry of the grace period, a school district may allow a student to continue to purchase regular meals or provide an alternative meal at no cost.

AFTERSCHOOL MEAL AND SNACK PROGRAMS

The Afterschool meals and snack programs, which includes the At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and the National School Lunch Program Afterschool Snack Service, are underutilized despite their vital role to fight out-of-school hunger. States have a range of policy options to improve access to and participation in the afterschool meal and snack programs. Such options include allocating state funding to encourage site expansion and support programs, creating a task force to study program participation barriers and recommend policy interventions, and requiring schools and school districts with above 50 percent FRP population to provide an afterschool meal program.

Maine

ME H 577 [Status: Enacted]

The bill requires a school administrative unit with a public school where 50 percent or more students are eligible for FRP meals to participating in CACFP, beginning in school year 2019-2020. The school administrative unit may only be exempted from participating in the program if it is proved, after notice and public hearing, that there would be a financial or logistical constraint.

SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS

In this report, Summer Nutrition Programs refer to all the summer meal access options available for low-income children such as the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), Summer EBT for Children (SEBTC) and the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) component of the National School Lunch Program. The Summer Meal Programs, which includes both SFSP and SSO, provide meals to low-income children during the summertime when schools are not in session. Despite the vital importance of the program, participation in these programs is very low and severely underutilized compared with the School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program.

Several factors make participation in and access to the program very low including a lack of transportation, adequate awareness about the program, adequate funding, sites that are accessible and convenient for families and children, and few program sponsors. During the 2018-2019 state legislative sessions, several states introduced bills that would expand the reach of the program. Legislative initiatives include requiring school districts to provide a summer meals program if a FRP eligibility threshold is met; or by providing funding that would support program expansion. The section below provides the list of Summer Nutrition Program bills introduced and considered by their respective legislatures.

Maryland

MD H 338 [Status: Enacted]

The bill provides an additional supplemental benefit of \$30 per child per month in June, July and August, and \$10 per child in December to eligible SNAP participants. The bill requires an appropriation of \$200,000 annually to provide for this supplemental food benefit for children in the summer months and winter break.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the nation's largest nutrition assistance program, serving as a lifeline for millions of low-income children, seniors and people with disabilities. The program's benefits are 100 percent federally funded, while states and the federal government share the administrative cost of the program. States have flexibility in administering the program in line with federal rules and regulations. Over the last year, some federal and state-level policy and legislative proposals have been introduced that would weaken the role of this vital anti-hunger program and make it more difficult for low-income families and children to access it. Such legislative proposals and trends are:

- Reinstating time-limits in SNAP benefit access for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs), limiting benefit access for three months in a three-year period. An Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependent (ABAWD) is a person age between 18-49, who is not disabled and has no children.
- Drug testing of certain SNAP benefit applicants and participants,
- Photo ID requirements in SNAP EBT card use, adding more burden in the use of SNAP benefits.

This section provides the state-level legislative proposals introduced in the 2018-2019 legislative sessions across states. While most of these legislative proposals have not been enacted into law in this budget session, it is imperative to continue monitor these trends and educate policymakers and the public about the negative consequences of such proposals.

Work Requirements and ABAWDs

Alabama

AL H 533 [Status: Failed]

The bill prevents the Department of Human Resources from seeking, applying for, accepting or renewing certain waivers of work requirements in SNAP for ABAWDs unless a county has an unemployment rate of 10 percent and higher. The bill includes other restrictions on SNAP and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Illinois

IL H 3273 [Status: Carryover]

The bill prevents the Department of Human Services from seeking to renew or extending any federal waiver of the 3-month time limit or work requirements for ABAWDs who apply for or receive benefits under SNAP.

Kentucky

KY H 3 [Status: Failed]

Under this bill, the state is required to assign ABAWDs that participate in SNAP to the workfare program as a condition of continued receipt of SNAP benefits.

Photo ID requirements

Iowa

IA SSB 1132 [Status: Pending, carryover]

The bill directs the department of human services to require EBT cards used to provide food benefits to bear the photograph of the person to whom the card is issued. The bill provides exceptions to children under the age of 18 and people who are eligible for Medicare based on age.

Minnesota

MN S 975 [Status: Failed]

The bill requires that the name and photograph of the head of the household and a list of family members authorized to use the EBT card be printed on the card. This applies to cash assistance and other Minnesota supplemental aid program recipients such as a person who is receiving Supplemental Security benefits but has net income less than the prescribed state threshold. The photo ID requirement does not apply to SNAP EBT cardholders. The cardholder is required to show identification before making purchases.

Texas

TX S 671 [Status: Failed]

The bill requires that the front side of an EBT card must carry the name and photograph of the recipient or other person authorized on the recipient's account for the purpose of receiving cash assistance or food assistance under SNAP.

Drug Testing

Alabama

AL H 3 [Status: Failed]

The bill requires that an applicant for SNAP be tested for substance abuse if there is reasonable suspicion that the person uses or is under the influence of a drug. The Department of Human Services is responsible for the implementation and administration of a drug screening program. The bill specifies that the initial cost of the drug screening must be borne by the department while the cost of any subsequent screening is the responsibility of the benefit applicant.

Texas

TX H 4269 [Status: Failed]

The bill requires that each first-time applicant for SNAP including an applicant applying solely on behalf of a child, be tested for marijuana and controlled substance use. A person who is denied SNAP benefits due to the drug test result can reapply for SNAP benefits after six months and provide proof of completion of or enrollment in a substance abuse treatment program. A person who is denied SNAP benefits three times due to drug test results will permanently become ineligible for SNAP including the person's household.

Other Changes

While the aforementioned bills have negative consequences on low-income families' and individuals ability to access food under the SNAP program, some states have also introduced legislative proposals that would improve access to SNAP thereby tackle food insecurity. Such legislative proposals include:

California

CA A 1022 [Status: Pending, carryover]

The bill requires the establishment of a state-funded California Anti-Hunger Response and Employment Training (CARET) program to provide food benefits to a person who has been deemed ineligible for SNAP benefits (CalFresh in California) or for whom CalFresh benefits have been discontinued, as a result of the ABAWD time limit. The bill would require that the person receive the same amount of benefits under the CARET program that the person would have received under the CalFresh program.

Maine

ME H 557 [Status: Failed]

The bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to seek a waiver from USDA policy that restricts SNAP benefits for three months in a 36-month period for ABAWDs, allowing individuals to continue to receive SNAP benefits who reside in counties, labor market areas or other areas that qualify for a waiver because of high unemployment or a lack of a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for those individuals.

ESTABLISHING CHILD HUNGER AND POVERTY REDUCTION COMMITTEES

In the 2018-19 session, a number of states have introduced bills that would establish a task force or advisory council to examine the state of food insecurity, poverty, and hunger in their communities and develop comprehensive and targeted interventions. This would help reinvigorate the momentum to address child hunger and poverty in their respective states with integrated policy interventions. In the previous years, a number of other states have established similar task forces and commissions to study and develop intervention policies such as California, Illinois, and New Hampshire.

Maine

ME LD 848 [Status: Enacted]

Under this resolution, Maine plans to eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition by 2030. To do so, the bill requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to consult and collaborate with a range of stakeholders such as state-wide and community-based advocacy and emergency food relief organizations, interfaith religious councils, people who struggle with hunger and food insecurity including other state agencies such as department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of Health and Human Services and develop a comprehensive strategic plan to eliminate hunger in the state by 2030. The department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry are required to submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry by February 10, 2020. The committee is authorized to submit legislation based on the report for consideration.

Maryland

MD HB 1030 [Status: Enacted]

This bill, also renamed as the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, establishes the Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program. The purpose of the program is to provide grants to eligible schools with a high concentration of students who are eligible for FRP meals. The bill provides a grant of \$248,833 per county board to be distributed for eligible school in the county and the county board is responsible for the distribution of those grants. Allowable use of funds includes but is not limited to wraparound services to students enrolled in the eligible school.

Nevada

NV A 159 [Status: Failed]

This bill establishes the Governor's Advisory Council on Food Security in statute, which was initially established by executive order in 2014. Representatives from different state agencies such as the Department of Agriculture, Department of Health and Human Services including community-based organizations such as food banks serve as council members. The council has many responsibilities such as holding hearings on issues relating to food security in the state and review and comment federal, state or local legislation or regulation that would affect food production, processing or delivery or food security in the state.

California

CA A 1059 [Status: Pending, carryover]

One of the main goals of this bill is to extend the operation of the Lifting Children and Families Out of Poverty Taskforce until January 1, 2022. The task force was established by statute (Chap. 415) in 2017 to examine and develop comprehensive strategies to address deep child poverty and poverty in California and its mandate was set to expire on January 1, 2020.

New Mexico

NM H 466 [Status: Failed]

The bill requires the secretary of the Department of Health to convene a malnutrition commission to identify goals and benchmarks to develop a home or community-based program to reduce the incidence of malnutrition in the state including the incidence of medical or health complications associated with malnutrition. The commission has a range of responsibilities including studying the impact of malnutrition on children and older adults and investigating effective strategies for reducing it. The secretary is required to submit a report on the commission of the findings to the governor and the Legislative Health and Human Services Interim Committee.
