

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025-2026 SIMULATION SESSION

SENATE BILL

NO 58

Introduced by Senator Blakespear
(co-authored by Senator Grove)
(co-sponsored by Senator Padilla, Dahle, Pérez)

October 1, 2025

Distributing agricultural surplus to need based communities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SB 58, as introduced, Blakespear. Distributing Agricultural Surplus to Need Based Communities.

Existing law establishes the Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to regulate and support California’s agricultural industry. Existing law also authorizes food assistance programs to distribute food to residents in need through food banks and nonprofit organizations.

This bill would establish the Surplus Crop Recovery and Redistribution Pilot Program within the Department of Food and Agriculture, to operate exclusively within Senate District 38 and Senate District 12. Under the program, CDFA may purchase eligible surplus or excess crops from farmers at 30 percent of the average market price, provided that the crops would otherwise go unsold, unharvested, or discarded.

The crops acquired through this program shall be distributed to food banks, schools, and nonprofit organizations serving food-insecure communities within Senate District 38 and Senate District 12. The bill would require CDFA to partner with regional food banks and community organizations to manage distribution, with the state funding only crop acquisition.

The bill would appropriate one million and eight hundred thousand dollars (\$1,800,000) from the General Fund to CDFA for the 2025–26 fiscal year to administer this pilot program.

Vote: majority Appropriation: yes Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: yes

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

SECTION 1. Legislative Findings and Declarations.

- (a) California produces more agricultural goods than any other state, yet millions of pounds of crops are wasted annually due to market fluctuations, cosmetic standards, or oversupply.
- (b) At the same time, many communities in California experience food insecurity, including residents of Senate District 38 and Senate District 12.
- (c) Redirecting surplus crops to food-insecure communities can reduce waste and the production of methane gas, support local farmers, and improve community health.
- (d) A pilot program in District 38 and District 12 will provide valuable data on how to expand the program statewide in future years.

(e) District 12 and District 38 represent diverse and distinct regions of California, both of which are valuable for informing strategic changes to the pilot program once expanded across the state of California.

SEC. 2. Surplus Crop Recovery and Redistribution Pilot Program.

(a) The Surplus Crop Recovery and Redistribution Pilot Program is hereby established within the Department of Food and Agriculture.

(b) Under the program, CDFA may purchase eligible surplus crops from farmers located in Senate District 38 Senate District 12, at 30 percent of the average market price, provided that:

(1) The crops would otherwise go unharvested, unsold, or discarded.

(2) The crops are suitable for human consumption and can be safely distributed.

(c) CDFA shall distribute or facilitate the distribution of purchased crops through partnerships with regional food banks, schools, and nonprofit organizations serving food-insecure residents.

(d) The crops that are unsuitable for human consumption will be donated to non-profit organizations focused on collecting and generating compost.

(e) The state's role under this program shall be limited to crop acquisition costs and transportation.

(f) Storage and distribution shall be coordinated by food banks and nonprofit partners.

(g) One quarter (1/4) of surplus inventory would be distributed to Senate District 38 from Senate District 12 due to the difference in agricultural volume per State District.

SEC. 3. Program Administration.

(a) CDFA shall adopt guidelines for farmer eligibility, pricing, and distribution procedures.

(b) The Department shall prepare a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2027, evaluating:

(1) The volume of crops recovered.

(2) The number of individuals served.

(3) Environmental impact metrics.

(4) Number of farmers participating.

(5) Recommendations for statewide expansion.

SEC. 4. Appropriation.

The sum of one million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$1,800,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Food and Agriculture for the 2025–26 fiscal year for the purposes of administering this program.

SEC. 5. Effective Date

This act shall take effect January 1, 2026.