

Date of Hearing: May 10, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Patrick O'Donnell, Chair
AB 691 (Levine) – As Introduced February 15, 2017

SUBJECT: Pupil nutrition: almond milk

SUMMARY: Authorizes almond milk as one of the types of milk that comply with state and federal laws on nutritional content of school meal programs and competitive foods sold in schools. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Adds almond milk to the definition of milk for the purposes of complying with state and federal law regarding nutritional content of school meals and competitive foods in schools.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Defines milk as a nutritious beverage, including, but not limited to, chocolate milk, soy milk, rice milk, and other similar dairy or nondairy milk. (EC 35182.5)
- 2) Defines “Non-dairy milk” alternative (e.g., rice milk, soy milk) means a beverage that: (CCR, Title 5, Section 15576)
 - a) Contains Vitamin A, Vitamin D and at least 25 percent of the daily recommendation for calcium per 8 ounces;
 - b) Contains no added sweeteners exceeding 28 grams of total sugars per 8 ounces;
 - c) Contains no more than 5 grams of fat per 8 ounces.

FISCAL EFFECT: The Office of Legislative Counsel keyed this bill as non-fiscal.

COMMENTS:

Need for the bill. According to the author, “Currently there is no definition of what a nondairy milk is. This bill clarifies that almond milk is considered nutritious so school districts can enter into a contract for the purchase of it. Almond milk is a wholesome alternative for those who suffer from lactose intolerance. Almonds are the number one agricultural export from California. The state produces over 80% of the world’s supply of almonds and the crop contributes \$5.33 billion to the state’s economy annually.”

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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