

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

7411P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



Re: AB 1087, 1087

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-103-87

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: AB 1087 and AB 2384

This letter is to provide County Welfare Departments (CWDs) with information concerning Assembly Bills 1087 and 2384 and how they impact the Food Stamp Program.

AB 1087

Assembly Bill 1087 (Chapter 1103, Statutes of 1987), which became effective on October 1, 1987, prohibits charging sales tax on food stamp purchases. This State legislation was enacted to comply with the 1985 Federal law that prohibits a State from participating in the Food Stamp Program after October 1, 1987 if it charges sales tax on purchases made with food stamps. Although most food stamp purchases were already exempted from California's sales tax, a few items (e.g. carbonated beverages and food coloring) were taxed. In order to ensure California's continued participation in the Food Stamp Program the State's sales tax law was changed to comply with the Federal requirement.

California's food retailers and wholesalers have been notified of this law change by both the State Board of Equalization and Food and Nutrition Service. No CWFA action is necessary in respect to this law.

AB 2384

Assembly Bill 2384 (Chapter 1293, Statutes of 1987), which becomes operative on July 1, 1988, changes the Food Stamp Program's expedited service requirements. The major changes that directly impact CWDs are as follows:

- o Each applicant must be orally informed of the availability of expedited services and upon request be provided assistance in filling out forms (application etc.) and completing the application process.
- o Expedited service benefits must be provided by the third day following the date the application was filed. A weekend will be counted as one day.
- o Expedited service verification requirements will be limited to identity.

- o The anticipated receipt of any income (including public assistance grants) will be counted only to the extent required by Federal law in the determination of eligibility and benefit level for expedited service. This issue is being researched with Food and Nutrition Service to determine specifically when anticipated income should be counted.
- o Each CWD shall compile and distribute a list of emergency food providers in the area served by the local office. The list shall be updated, based on information from the food providers. This list shall be made available upon request, and, where needed may be used to refer individuals to emergency food sites that may be able to provide assistance.
- o Nonpromotional information provided by local legal services and welfare rights organizations shall be made available to applicants upon request.
- o Expedited service data will be collected from CWDs on: (1) the number of applications and their disposition; (2) food stamp overissuances and underissuances relevant to this law change; and (3) the number of cases closed after the issuance of the first month of expedited service benefits for failure to complete the application process.

The Department has already initiated activities necessary for implementation of AB 224 provisions. State regulations resulting from these changes will be processed on an emergency basis with a July 1, 1988 effective date. More detailed information on the regulation changes will be sent early next year.

If you have any questions, please contact Tonya Comage at (916) 324-6847.


 ROBERT A. HOREL
 Deputy Director

cc: CWDA