

REVISED

Approved as to Form and Legality

M. M. [Signature]
City Attorney's Office

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

13 APR 18 PM 4:13

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION No. 84326 C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER DESLEY BROOKS

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 283 (HANCOCK) WHICH PROVIDES INDIVIDUALS, PREVIOUSLY CONVICTED OF A NONVIOLENT DRUG FELONY, AND WHO MEET ALL OTHER ELIGIBILITY AND ASSET RULES AND ARE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLYING WITH THE CONDITIONS OF PROBATION OR PAROLE, OR HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THEIR PROBATION OR PAROLE, WOULD BE CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE FOR CALIFORNIA WORKS OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR KIDS (Cal WORKs) and CalFresh PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, thousands of Californians are released from prison or jail every year on parole or probation. Unfortunately, with few or no job prospects, it is estimated that 66% of those released from prison will be rearrested- and almost one-half will be re-incarcerated- within three years of their release; and

WHEREAS, According to a 2011 report by Pew Center on the States, California ranks second-worst in the nation in recidivism rates (nearly 15% points higher than the national average); and

WHEREAS, under existing law, California currently maintains a lifetime ban on people with prior drug-related felony convictions from receiving basic needs assistance, job training and employment support services through the CalWORKs program and CalFresh (known nationally as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-formerly the Food Stamp Program); and

WHEREAS, This ban exists despite the fact that California has the second highest rate of recidivism in the country, and that numerous studies finding that access to basic needs supports (like food and housing assistance), reduces crime and contributes to successful re-entry of individuals who have been incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 283 would allow individuals, previously convicted of a nonviolent drug felony who meet all other eligibility and asset rules to receive basic-needs services, employment training and work supports through the California Works Opportunity and Responsibility for Kids (CalWORKs) program and CalFresh (known nationally as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-formerly the Food Stamp Program), if they are complying with the conditions of probation or parole, or have successfully completed their probation or parole; and

WHEREAS, SB 283 will provide additional tools to county probation departments and human services agencies to improve outcomes for reentry, job placement and child wellbeing; thus benefiting Oakland's reentry community; and

WHEREAS, The ban on CalWorks and CalFresh assistance for individuals with previous convictions of nonviolent drug-related felonies, regardless of their subsequent efforts to improve their lives, is a major barrier to successful reentry and access to jobs, and consequently, a contributing factor to high recidivism in Oakland; and

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WHEREAS, Restoring access to these benefits for these individuals with prior drug-related felony convictions will not only improve outcomes of very vulnerable families, but also improve public safety in Oakland by increasing employment opportunities and financial stability and reducing their risks of reoffending; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that the Oakland City Council supports Senate Bill 283 and encourages the California Legislature to approve this bill; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council hereby requests City Administrator and the City's legislative lobbyist to advocate for the above position in the California State Legislature.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, MAY 7 2013 , 2013

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

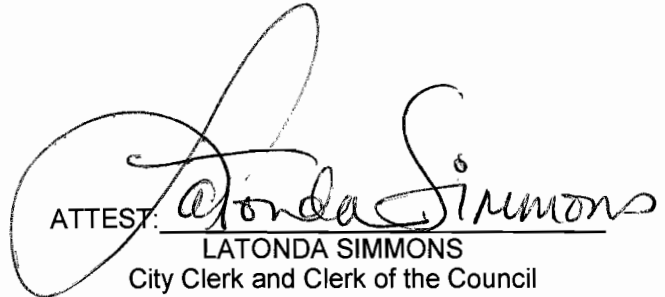
AYES – BROOKS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, SCHAAF, and PRESIDENT KERNIGHAN — 8

NOES- 0

ABSENT- 0

ABSTENTION- 0

ATTEST:



Latonda Simmons

LATONDA SIMMONS

City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California