2.201.010 Findings.

The board of supervisors finds that the county of Los Angeles is the principal provider of social and health services within the county, especially to persons who are compelled to turn to the county for such services. Employers’ failure to pay less than a living wage to their employees causes them to use such services thereby placing an additional burden on the county of Los Angeles. (Ord. 99-0048 § 1 (part), 1999.)

2.201.020 Definitions.

The general definitions contained in Chapter 2.02 shall be applicable to this chapter unless inconsistent with the following definitions:
A. "County" includes the county of Los Angeles, any county officer or body, any county department head, and any county employee authorized to enter into a Proposition A contract or a cafeteria services contract with an employer.
B. "Employee" means any individual who is an employee of an employer under the laws of California, and who is providing full time services to an employer, some or all of which are provided to the county of Los Angeles under a Proposition A contract, or under a cafeteria services contract at a county of Los Angeles owned or leased facility.
C. "Employer" means:
   1. An individual or entity who has a contract with the county:
      a. For services which is required to be more economical or feasible under Section 44.7 of the Charter of the county of Los Angeles, and is not listed as an excluded contract in Section 2.121.250 B of the Los Angeles County Code, referred to in this chapter as a "Proposition A contract," or
      b. For cafeteria services, referred to in this chapter as a "cafeteria services contract," and
      c. Who has received or will receive an aggregate sum of $25,000.00 or more in any 12 month period under one or more Proposition A contracts and/or one or more cafeteria services contracts; or
   2. An individual or entity that enters into a subcontract with an employer, as defined in subsection C1 and who employs employees to provide services under the employer’s contract with the county.
D. "Full time" means a minimum 40 hours worked per week, or a lesser number of hours, if the lesser number is a recognized industry standard and is approved as such by the chief administrative officer, but in no event less than 35 hours worked per week. (Ord. 99-0048 § 1 (part), 1999.)

2.201.030 Prospective effect.

This chapter shall be applicable to Proposition A contracts and cafeteria services contracts and their amendments the terms of which commence three months or more after
the effective date of this chapter.* It shall not be applicable to Proposition A contracts or cafeteria services contracts or their amendments in effect before this chapter becomes applicable. (Ord. 99-0048 § 1 (part), 1999.)

*Editor's note: Ordinance 99-0048, which enacted Ch. 2.201, is effective on July 22, 1999.

2.201.040 Payment of living wage.

A. Employers shall pay employees a living wage for their services provided to the county of no less than the hourly rates set under this chapter. The rates shall be $8.32 per hour with health benefits, or $9.46 per hour without health benefits.
B. To qualify for the living wage rate with health benefits, an employer shall pay at least $1.14 per hour towards the provision of bona fide health care benefits for each employee and any dependents during the term of a Proposition A contract or a cafeteria services contract. Proof of the provision of such benefits must be submitted to the county for evaluation during the procurement process to qualify for the lower living wage rate in subsection A of this section. Employers who provide health care benefits to employees through the county department of health services community health plan are deemed to have qualified for the lower living wage rate in subsection A of this section.
C. The board of supervisors may, from time to time, adjust the amounts specified in subsections A and B of this section, above for future contracts. (Ord. 99-0048 § 1 (part), 1999.)

2.201.050 Other provisions.

A. Full Time Employees. An employer shall assign and use full time employees to provide services under a Proposition A contract or a cafeteria services contract, unless the employer can demonstrate to the county the necessity to use non-full time employees based on staffing efficiency or the county requirements of an individual job.
B. Neutrality in Labor Relations. An employer shall not use any consideration received under a Proposition A contract or a cafeteria services contract to hinder, or to further, organization of, or collective bargaining activities by or on behalf of an employer’s employees, except that this restriction shall not apply to any expenditure made in the course of good faith collective bargaining, or to any expenditure pursuant to obligations incurred under a bona fide collective bargaining agreement, or which would otherwise be permitted under the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act.
C. Administration. The chief administrative officer shall be responsible for the administration of this chapter. The chief administrative officer may, with the advice of county counsel, issue interpretations of the provisions of this chapter. The chief administrative officer in conjunction with the affirmative action compliance officer shall issue written instructions on the implementation and on-going administration of this chapter. Such instructions may provide for the delegation of functions to other county departments.
D. Compliance Certification. An employer shall, during the term of a Proposition A contract, or a cafeteria services contract, report for each employee and certify the hours worked, wages paid, and amounts the employer paid for health benefits, and provide other information deemed relevant to the enforcement of this chapter by the county. Such reports shall be made at the times and in the manner set forth in instructions issued by the chief administrative officer in conjunction with the affirmative action compliance officer. The affirmative action compliance officer in conjunction with the chief administrative officer shall report annually to the board of supervisors on contractor compliance with the provisions of this chapter.

E. Contractor Standards. An employer shall demonstrate during the procurement process and for the duration of a Proposition A contract or a cafeteria services contract a history of business stability, integrity in employee relations, and the financial ability to pay a living wage. (Ord. 99-0048 § 1 (part), 1999.)

2.201.060 Employer retaliation prohibited.

No employer shall take an adverse action causing a loss of any benefit of employment, of any contract benefit, or any statutory benefit to any employee, person, or other entity, who has reported a violation of this chapter to the board of supervisors or to one or more of their offices, to the county chief administrative officer, or to the county auditor controller, or to the county department administering the Proposition A contract or cafeteria services contract. (Ord. 99-0048 § 1 (part), 1999.)

2.201.070 Employee retention rights.

In the event that any Proposition A contract or cafeteria service contract is terminated by the county prior to its expiration, any new contract with a subsequent employer for such services shall provide for the employment of the predecessor employer’s employees as provided in this section.
A. A "retention employee" is an employee of a predecessor employer:
1. Who is not an exempt employee under the minimum wage and maximum hour exemptions defined in the federal Fair Labor Standards Act;
2. Who has been employed by an employer under a predecessor Proposition A contract or a predecessor cafeteria services contract for at least six months prior to the date of a new contract; and
3. Who is or will be terminated from his or her employment as a result of the county entering into a new contract.
B. Subsequent employers shall offer employment to all retention employees who are qualified for such jobs.
C. A subsequent employer is not required to hire a retention employee who:
1. Has been convicted of a crime related to the job or his or her job performance; or
2. Fails to meet any other county requirement for employees of a contractor.
D. A subsequent employer may not terminate a retention employee for the first 90 days of employment under a new contract, except for cause. Thereafter a subsequent employer
may retain a retention employee on the same terms and conditions as the subsequent employer’s other employees. (Ord. 99-0048 § 1 (part), 1999.)

2.201.080 Enforcement and remedies.

For violation of any of the provisions of this chapter:
A. An employee may bring an action in the courts of the state of California for damages caused by an employer’s violation of this chapter.
B. The county department head responsible for administering a Proposition A contract or a cafeteria services contract may do one or more of the following in accordance with such instructions as may be issued by the chief administrative officer:
1. Assess liquidated damages as provided in the contract; and/or
2. Recommend to the board of supervisors the termination of the contract; and/or
3. Recommend to the board of supervisors that an employer be barred from award of future county contracts for a period of time consistent with the seriousness of the employer’s violation of this chapter, not to exceed three years. (Ord. 99-0048 § 1 (part), 1999.)

2.201.090 Exceptions.

A. Other Laws. This chapter shall not be interpreted or applied to any employer or to any employee in a manner inconsistent with United States or California laws.
B. Collective Bargaining Agreements. Any provision of this chapter shall be superseded by a collective bargaining agreement that expressly so provides.
C. This chapter shall not be applied to any employer which is a nonprofit corporation qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
D. Small Businesses. This chapter shall not be applied to any employer which is a business entity organized for profit, including but not limited to any individual, partnership, corporation, joint venture, association or cooperative, which entity:
1. Is not an affiliate or subsidiary of a business dominant in its field of operation; and
2. Has 20 or fewer employees during the contract period, including full time and part time employees; and
3. Does not have annual gross revenues in the preceding fiscal year which if added to the annual amount of the contract awarded exceed $1,000,000.00; or
4. If the business is a technical or professional service, does not have annual gross revenues in the preceding fiscal year which if added to the annual amount of the contract awarded exceed $2,500,000.00.

"Dominant in its field of operation" means having more than 20 employees, including full time and part time employees, and more than $1,000,000.00 in annual gross revenues or $2,500,000.00 in annual gross revenues if a technical or professional service.
"Affiliate or subsidiary of a business dominant in its field of operation" means a business which is at least 20 percent owned by a business dominant in its field of operation, or by partners, officers, directors, majority stockholders, or their equivalent, of a business
dominant in that field of operation. (Ord. 99-0055 § 1, 1999: Ord. 99-0048 § 1 (part), 1999.)

2.201.100 Severability.

If any provision of this chapter is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect. (Ord. 99-0048 § 1 (part), 1999.)