

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4702

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 29, 2018

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SYNOPSIS

“Hunger-Free Campus Act”; requires Secretary of Higher Education to establish grant program to address food insecurity among students enrolled in public institutions of higher education; appropriates \$1 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on December 10, 2018, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/22/2019)

1 AN ACT concerning food insecurity among students enrolled in
2 public institutions of higher education, supplementing chapter 62
3 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, and making an
4 appropriation.

5
6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
7 of New Jersey:

8
9 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Hunger-
10 Free Campus Act.”

11
12 2. The Secretary of Higher Education shall establish a Hunger-
13 Free Campus Grant Program. The purpose of the program shall be
14 to provide grants to public institutions of higher education that have
15 one or more campuses that are designated by the secretary as
16 hunger-free campuses. The purpose of the grant funding shall be to:

- 17 a. address student hunger;
18 b. leverage more sustainable solutions to address basic food
19 needs on campus;
20 c. raise awareness of services currently offered on campus
21 which address basic food needs; and
22 d. continue to build strategic partnerships at the local, State,
23 and national levels to address food insecurity among students.

24
25 3. In order to be designated as a hunger-free campus, the
26 institution shall:

- 27 a. establish a ¹**[hunger task force]** Campus Hunger Task
28 Force¹ that meets a minimum of three times per academic year to
29 set at least two goals with action plans;
30 b. designate a staff member responsible for assisting students
31 with enrollment in the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition
32 Assistance Program (SNAP);
33 c. provide options for students to utilize SNAP benefits at
34 campus stores ¹that meet the federal standards set by the Food and
35 Nutrition Service in the United States Department of Agriculture¹;
36 d. participate in an awareness day campaign activity and plan a
37 campus awareness event during the National Hunger and
38 Homelessness Awareness Week;
39 e. provide at least one physical food pantry on campus, or
40 enable students to receive food through a separate, stigma-free
41 arrangement;
42 f. develop a “Swipe Out Hunger” student meal credit sharing
43 program, or designate a certain amount of funds for free meal

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted December 10, 2018.

1 vouchers that might otherwise be raised through a “Swipe Out
2 Hunger” program; and

3 g. annually conduct a student survey on hunger, developed by
4 the Secretary of Higher Education, and submit the results of the
5 survey and a best practices campus profile to the secretary at a time
6 prescribed by the secretary for inclusion in a comparative profile of
7 each campus designated as a hunger-free campus. In the
8 development of the survey, the secretary may utilize any existing
9 surveys designed to collect information on food insecurity among
10 students enrolled in public institutions of higher education.

11

12 4. The secretary shall allocate grant funding to each public
13 institution of higher education that has one or more campuses
14 designated by the secretary as a hunger-free campus in accordance
15 with the criteria established pursuant to section 3 of this act. The
16 secretary shall determine the amount of each grant which shall be
17 used by the institution to further address food insecurity among
18 students enrolled in the institution.

19

20 5. The secretary shall submit a report to the Governor, and to
21 the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
22 19.1), no later than two years after the establishment of the Hunger-
23 Free Campus Grant Program. The report shall include, but not be
24 limited to, the number and amounts of the grant awards, the impact
25 the grant program has had on establishing additional hunger-free
26 campuses at public institutions of higher education and reducing the
27 number of students experiencing food insecurity, and
28 recommendations on the expansion of the grant program.

29

30 6. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
31 Department of State the sum of \$1,000,000 for the purpose of
32 effectuating the provisions of this act.

33

34 7. This act shall take effect immediately.