



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Committee Bill No. 6229

LCO No. 3788



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

***AN ACT ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF FOOD-INSECURE STUDENTS
AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section,
2 "food insecurity" or "food insecure" means the lack of financial resources
3 needed to consistently access enough food for an active and healthy life.

4 (b) Not later than March 1, 2022, and biennially thereafter, each public
5 institution of higher education in the state shall administer a survey to
6 each student enrolled at such institution for the purpose of collecting
7 data on the number of students who are food insecure and the causes of
8 and reasons for such food insecurity. Such survey shall include, but
9 need not be limited to, questions regarding a student's (1) demographic
10 background, including age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, marital
11 status, income, education and employment; (2) specific barriers to food
12 access; and (3) awareness or use of community or institutional resources
13 to address food insecurity and any barriers to accessing such resources.

14 (c) Not later than October 1, 2022, and biennially thereafter, each
15 public institution of higher education shall evaluate any services and

16 programs offered by such institution to address the needs of food-
17 insecure students. Based on the results of the survey administered
18 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, each institution shall amend
19 any existing or establish new services and programs to address the
20 needs of food-insecure students. Such services or programs may
21 include, but not be limited to, (1) assistance and support for students to
22 enroll in the supplemental nutrition assistance program pursuant to the
23 federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 or any other state or federal
24 program for nutrition assistance or financial aid, including programs for
25 families, if applicable to the student; (2) providing low-cost food or meal
26 plan options on campus; (3) allowing students additional meals through
27 extra card swipes on meal plans; (4) providing financial assistance or
28 other financial student aid; (5) establishing or expanding a food pantry
29 on campus; or (6) initiating a fruit and vegetable incentive program, or
30 making such program available to students through agreement with a
31 community nonprofit organization or governmental agency that
32 provides such program. When establishing or amending any services or
33 programs pursuant to this subsection, each institution shall have the
34 goal to provide such services and programs to not less than ten per cent
35 of the number of students identified as being food insecure in the survey
36 administered pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

37 (d) Not later than January 1, 2023, and biennially thereafter, each
38 public institution of higher education in the state shall submit a report,
39 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
40 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
41 cognizance of matters relating to higher education regarding any food
42 insecurity among the students at such institution, including, but not
43 limited to, (1) results from the survey administered pursuant to
44 subsection (b) of this section, (2) services and programs to address the
45 needs of food-insecure students, including any changes made to such
46 services or programs pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, and (3)
47 the number of students who utilized such services and programs during
48 the preceding two years.

49 Sec. 2. Section 17b-105f of the general statutes is amended by adding
50 subsections (e) to (g), inclusive, as follows (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

51 (NEW) (e) Not later than January 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the
52 Department of Social Services and the Board of Regents for Higher
53 Education shall jointly identify any educational program offered at a
54 regional community-technical college that would meet the requirements
55 of a supplemental nutrition assistance employment and training
56 program administered by the department pursuant to subsection (a) of
57 this section. In identifying such educational programs, the department
58 and the board shall seek to maximize the number and types of
59 supplemental nutrition assistance employment and training programs
60 offered at the regional community-technical colleges.

61 (NEW) (f) The Department of Social Services shall qualify any
62 educational program identified pursuant to subsection (e) of this section
63 as a supplemental nutrition assistance employment and training
64 program and shall seek any federal approval necessary to make such
65 qualification.

66 (NEW) (g) Not later than July 1, 2022, the Department of Social
67 Services shall post and regularly update on its Internet web site, and the
68 Board of Regents for Higher Education shall post and regularly update
69 on the Internet web site of each regional community-technical college,
70 the list of educational programs offered at each regional community-
71 technical college that has been qualified as a supplemental nutrition
72 assistance employment and training program pursuant to subsections
73 (e) and (f) of this section.

74 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) For the purpose of determining
75 eligibility for the supplemental nutrition assistance program pursuant
76 to the federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, the Department of Social
77 Services shall consider any student enrolled in an institution of higher
78 education in the state to be participating in a state or federally financed
79 work-study program if such student receives approval of work-study as
80 part of a financial aid package to attend such institution of higher

81 education, regardless of whether such student has received his or her
82 work-study program assignment.

83 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) Each public institution of higher
84 education shall notify any student who has been identified by the
85 financial aid office of such public institution of higher education as
86 being potentially eligible for the supplemental nutrition assistance
87 program pursuant to the federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008. Such
88 notice shall include (1) the requirements to qualify for such program, (2)
89 the application process for such program, and (3) where such student
90 can receive assistance in completing an application for such program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	17b-105f
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require public institutions of higher education to assess and address food insecurity among students and to increase access to the supplemental nutrition assistance program by eligible students at institutions of higher education.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. FOSTER, 57th Dist.; REP. ELLIOTT, 88th Dist.
SEN. HASKELL, 26th Dist.; REP. TURCO, 27th Dist.
REP. HADDAD, 54th Dist.; REP. GILCHREST, 18th Dist.
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