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:

Section 1. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2022) (a) As used in this section, "food insecurity" or "food insecure" means the lack of financial resources needed to consistently access enough food for an active and healthy life.

(b) Not later than March 1, 2023, and biennially thereafter, each public institution of higher education in the state shall administer a survey to each student enrolled at such institution for the purpose of collecting data on the number of students who are food insecure and the causes of and reasons for such food insecurity. Such survey shall include, but need not be limited to, questions regarding a student's (1) demographic background, including age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, marital status, income, education and employment; (2) specific barriers to food access; and (3) awareness or use of community or institutional resources to address food insecurity and any barriers to accessing such resources.

(c) Not later than October 1, 2023, and biennially thereafter, each
public institution of higher education shall evaluate any services and
programs offered by such institution to address the needs of food-
insecure students. Based on the results of the survey administered
pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, each institution shall amend
any existing or establish new services and programs to address the
needs of food-insecure students. Such services or programs may
include, but not be limited to, (1) assistance and support for students to
enroll in the supplemental nutrition assistance program pursuant to the
federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 or any other state or federal
program for nutrition assistance or financial aid, including programs for
families, if applicable to the student; (2) providing low-cost food or meal
plan options on campus; (3) allowing students additional meals through
extra card swipes on meal plans; (4) providing financial assistance or
other financial student aid; (5) establishing or expanding a food pantry
on campus; or (6) initiating a fruit and vegetable incentive program, or
making such program available to students through agreement with a
community nonprofit organization or governmental agency that
provides such program. When amending or establishing any services or
programs pursuant to this subsection, each institution shall have the
goal of providing such services and programs to not less than ten per
cent of the number of students identified as being food insecure in the
survey administered pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(d) Not later than January 1, 2024, and biennially thereafter, each
public institution of higher education in the state shall submit a report,
in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
cognizance of matters relating to higher education, regarding any food
insecurities among the students at such institution, including, but not
limited to, (1) results from the survey administered pursuant to
subsection (b) of this section, (2) services and programs to address the
needs of food insecure students, including any amendments made to
such services or programs pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, and
(3) the number of students who utilized such services and programs
during the preceding two years.
Sec. 2. Section 17b-105f of the general statutes is amended by adding subsections (e) and (f) as follows (Effective July 1, 2022):

(NEW) (e) (1) Not later than January 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall consult with the Department of Social Services for the purpose of identifying any educational program offered at an institution of higher education governed by said boards that qualifies as an employment and training program which increases a student's employability and complies with the requirements for an exemption, as specified in 7 CFR 273.5(b)(11), as amended from time to time, from the supplemental nutrition assistance program eligibility rule in 7 CFR 273.5(a), as amended from time to time. In identifying such educational programs, the department and said boards shall seek to maximize the number and types of employment and training programs offered at the institution of higher education governed by said boards.

(2) Any independent institution of higher education in the state may, in such institution's discretion, consult with the Department of Social Services for the purposes set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(NEW) (f) Not later than July 1, 2023, the Department of Social Services, the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall each post, and regularly update, on their Internet web site, the list of educational programs offered at each institution of higher education governed by said boards that has been qualified as an employment and training program pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of this section.

Sec. 3. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2022) For the purpose of determining eligibility for the supplemental nutrition assistance program pursuant to the federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended from time to time, the Department of Social Services, to the extent permitted under federal law, shall consider any student enrolled in an institution of higher education in the state to be participating in a state or federally financed work-study program if such student receives approval of
work-study as part of a financial aid package to attend such institution
of higher education, regardless of whether such student has received his
or her work-study program assignment.

Sec. 4. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2022) Each public institution of higher
education shall notify any student identified by the financial aid office
of such public institution of higher education as potentially eligible for
the supplemental nutrition assistance program pursuant to the federal
Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended from time to time,
regarding (1) the qualification requirements for such program, (2) the
application procedure for such program, and (3) where to obtain
assistance in completing an application for such program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following
sections:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sec. 1</td>
<td>July 1, 2022</td>
<td>New section</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sec. 2</td>
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<td>17b-105f</td>
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<td>Sec. 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sec. 4</td>
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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.]