

By Senator Bernard

24-00965-26

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Hunger-Free Campus Pilot Program; providing a short title; establishing, subject to legislative appropriation, the pilot program within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for a specified period; providing the purpose of the pilot program; defining the terms "commissioner" and "department"; requiring the Commissioner of Agriculture to identify the three state universities or Florida College System institutions with the highest percentage of Pell Grant-eligible students for participation in the pilot program; requiring the commissioner to develop a specified survey instrument; providing requirements for participating universities and institutions; requiring participating universities and institutions to submit a report to the department; requiring the commissioner to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date; specifying requirements for the report; authorizing the department to adopt rules; requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to conduct a study to evaluate food insecurity on the campuses of state universities and Florida College System institutions; providing requirements for the office and the study; requiring the office to submit a report to the Legislature by a specified date; providing an effective date.

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Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Hunger-Free Campus Act."

Section 2. (1) Subject to legislative appropriation, the Hunger-Free Campus Pilot Program is established within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to support efforts to fight hunger on the campuses of public postsecondary educational institutions. The pilot program is established for a period of 1 year, beginning July 1, 2026.

(2) For purposes of this section, the term:

(a) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Agriculture.

(b) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

(3) (a) The commissioner shall identify from among all state universities and Florida College System institutions the three that have the highest percentage of Pell Grant-eligible students, which universities or institutions shall participate in the pilot program.

(b) The commissioner shall also develop the survey instrument described in subsection (4).

(4) A participating state university or Florida College System institution shall:

(a) Establish a hunger task force, which must include representatives from the student body and meet at least three times during the life of the pilot program. The task force shall set at least two goals to address hunger on campus, each accompanied by an action plan.

(b) Designate a staff member responsible for assisting

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students with enrollment in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as defined in s. 414.456(1), Florida Statutes.

(c) Provide options that enable students to use SNAP benefits on campus or provide students with information on authorized SNAP retailers in the area surrounding the campus where they may use SNAP electronic benefit transfer cards.

(d) Host an activity or event during Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week to promote awareness of hunger on the nation's campuses.

(e) Provide at least one physical food pantry on campus or enable students to receive food at no cost through a stigma-free process. The campus may partner with a local food bank or food pantry to comply with this paragraph.

(f) Develop a student meal credit donation program or designate funds that might be raised through such a program for free food vouchers.

(g) Conduct a student survey on hunger, using a survey instrument developed by the commissioner, and submit the results of the survey and a best practices campus profile to the department by a date prescribed by the department for inclusion in a comparative profile of each campus designated as a hunger-free campus.

(5) (a) Each participating state university or Florida College System institution shall submit a report to the department, in a manner prescribed by the department, which describes how it implemented the pilot program and the program results.

(b) The commissioner shall submit a report on the pilot

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88 program to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
89 Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2028. The
90 report must include, but need not be limited to, the impact of
91 the program on establishing hunger-free campuses at
92 participating state universities or Florida College System
93 institutions; the impact of the program on reducing the number
94 of students at such universities and institutions who are
95 experiencing food insecurity; and recommendations regarding
96 future funding and implementation of the program on a long-term
97 basis.

98 (6) The department may adopt rules to implement the
99 program.

100 Section 3. (1) The Office of Program Policy Analysis and
101 Government Accountability (OPPAGA) shall conduct a study to
102 evaluate food insecurity on the campuses of state universities
103 and Florida College System institutions.

104 (2) The study must include recommendations for any changes
105 to general law, Board of Governors' regulations, or State Board
106 of Education rules needed to address food insecurity on the
107 campuses of state universities and Florida College System
108 institutions.

109 (3) In conducting the study, OPPAGA shall consult with the
110 Board of Governors of the State University System, the board of
111 trustees of the Florida College System, the Department of
112 Education, and any other relevant stakeholders.

113 (4) OPPAGA shall submit a report on its findings to the
114 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
115 Representatives by December 1, 2026.

116 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.