

By the Committee on Agriculture; and Senator Calatayud

575-02510-23

20231172c1

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to the Hunger-Free Campus Pilot  
3       Program; providing a short title; establishing the  
4       pilot program within the Department of Agriculture and  
5       Consumer Services for a specified period; providing  
6       the purpose of the pilot program; defining the terms  
7       "commissioner" and "department"; requiring the  
8       Commissioner of Agriculture to identify the three  
9       state universities or Florida College System  
10      institutions with the highest percentage of Pell  
11      Grant-eligible students for participation in the pilot  
12      program; requiring the commissioner to develop a  
13      specified survey instrument; providing requirements  
14      for participating universities and institutions;  
15      requiring participating universities and institutions  
16      to submit a report to the department; requiring the  
17      commissioner to submit a report to the Governor and  
18      the Legislature by a specified date; specifying  
19      requirements for the reports; authorizing the  
20      department to adopt rules; requiring the Office of  
21      Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability  
22      to conduct a study to evaluate food insecurity on the  
23      campuses of state universities and Florida College  
24      System institutions; providing requirements for the  
25      office and the study; requiring the office to submit a  
26      report to the Legislature by a specified date;  
27      providing an effective date.

28  
29   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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30  
31 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Hunger-Free Campus  
32 Act."

33 Section 2. (1) Subject to legislative appropriation, the  
34 Hunger-Free Campus Pilot Program is established within the  
35 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to support  
36 efforts to fight hunger on the campuses of public postsecondary  
37 educational institutions. The program is established for a  
38 period of 1 year, beginning July 1, 2023.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

57 (b) Designate a staff member responsible for assisting  
58 students with enrollment in the Supplemental Nutrition

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59 Assistance Program (SNAP) as defined in s. 414.456(1), Florida  
60 Statutes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

86 (b) The commissioner shall submit a report on the program  
87 to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of

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88 the House of Representatives by January 1, 2025. The report must  
89 include, but need not be limited to, the impact of the program  
90 on establishing hunger-free campuses at participating state  
91 universities or Florida College System institutions; the impact  
92 of the program on reducing the number of students at such  
93 universities and institutions who are experiencing food  
94 insecurity; and recommendations regarding future funding and  
95 implementation of the program on a long-term basis.

96 (6) The department may adopt rules to implement the  
97 program.

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

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

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

111 (4) OPPAGA shall submit a report on its findings to the  
112 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
113 Representatives by December 1, 2023.

114 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.