

HOUSE BILL NO. 5097

October 05, 2023, Introduced by Reps. Hill, Brixie, McKinney, Rogers, Churches, Martus, Conlin, Price, Brabec, Steckloff, Paiz, Rheingans, Glanville, Tsernoglou, Byrnes, Coffia, Hood, MacDonell, Morgan, Young, Neeley, Brenda Carter, Wilson, Morse, Snyder, O'Neal and Aiyash and referred to the Committee on Higher Education.

A bill to create a grant program to assist certain public institutions of higher education in addressing student hunger at those institutions; to provide for the powers and duties of certain state governmental officers and entities; and to require the promulgation of rules.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act may be cited as the "hunger-free campus grant
2 act".

3 Sec. 2. As used in this act:

4 (a) "Department" means the department of education.

1 (b) "Hunger-free campus grant program" or "program" means the
2 hunger-free campus grant program created in section 3.

3 (c) "Public institution of higher education" or "institution"
4 means either of the following:

5 (i) A public community or junior college established under
6 section 7 of article VIII of the state constitution of 1963 or part
7 25 of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1601 to
8 380.1607.

9 (ii) A state university described in section 4, 5, or 6 of
10 article VIII of the state constitution of 1963.

11 Sec. 3. (1) The hunger-free campus grant program is created in
12 the department. The purposes of the program include all of the
13 following:

14 (a) Address student hunger at public institutions of higher
15 education.

16 (b) Leverage sustainable solutions to address basic needs on
17 the campuses of public institutions of higher education.

18 (c) Raise awareness of basic-needs services offered on the
19 campuses of public institutions of higher education.

20 (d) Build strategic partnerships at the local, state, and
21 national levels to address food insecurity among students attending
22 public institutions of higher education.

23 (2) The department shall do all of the following:

24 (a) Designate as a hunger-free campus each campus of a public
25 institution of higher education that meets all of the following:

26 (i) Establishes a hunger task force that includes
27 representatives from the student body and that meets at least 3
28 times per academic year to set at least 2 goals with action plans.

29 (ii) Designates a staff member responsible for informing

1 students about enrollment opportunities in this state's
2 supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP).

3 (iii) Provides options for students to utilize SNAP EBT benefits
4 at campus stores or provides students with information on
5 establishments in the surrounding area of campus where they can
6 utilize SNAP EBT benefits.

7 (iv) Holds an awareness day campaign activity or event during
8 the national hunger and homelessness awareness week.

9 (v) Provides at least 1 physical food pantry on campus or
10 enables students to receive food through a separate, stigma-free
11 arrangement. A campus may partner with a local food bank or food
12 pantry to meet this requirement.

13 (vi) Develops a student meal credit donation program or
14 designates a certain amount of funds for free food vouchers that
15 might otherwise be raised through such a program. Each public
16 institution of higher education may develop its own procedures for
17 a meal donation program.

18 (vii) Biannually conducts a student survey on hunger, developed
19 by the department, and submits the results of the survey and a best
20 practices campus profile to the department at a time prescribed by
21 the department for inclusion in a comparative profile of each
22 campus designated as a hunger-free campus. In the development of
23 the survey, the department shall utilize any existing surveys
24 designed to collect information on food insecurity among students
25 enrolled in public institutions of higher education.

26 (b) Subject to appropriation, allocate grant funding to public
27 institutions of higher education that have 1 or more campuses
28 designated as hunger-free campuses pursuant to subdivision (a).
29 Based on the criteria outlined in subdivision (a), the department

1 shall determine the amount of each grant on a competitive basis.
2 The department shall prioritize grants to institutions with the
3 highest percentages of eligible Pell Grant recipients enrolled at
4 those institutions.

5 (c) Ensure that each public institution of higher education
6 that receives a grant pursuant to subdivision (b) uses the grant
7 money to further address basic needs among students enrolled at the
8 institution.

9 (d) Ensure that, following its use of the grant money, each
10 grant-receiving institution provides basic information to the
11 department explaining how the award was used and its deliverables
12 and outcomes.

13 (e) Submit a report to the governor, the president of the
14 senate, and the speaker of the house no later than 3 years after
15 the establishment of the hunger-free campus grant program. The
16 report must include, at a minimum, the number and amounts of the
17 grant awards, the impact the grant program has had on establishing
18 additional hunger-free campuses at public institutions of higher
19 education and reducing the number of students experiencing food
20 insecurity, and recommendations regarding the potential
21 establishment of an annual appropriation for the grant program.

22 (f) Promulgate rules to implement this act under the
23 administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to
24 24.328.

25 Sec. 4. (1) The hunger-free campus grant program fund is
26 created in the state treasury.

27 (2) The state treasurer shall deposit money and other assets
28 received from any source in the fund. The state treasurer shall
29 direct the investment of money in the fund and credit interest and

1 earnings from the investments to the fund.

2 (3) The department is the administrator of the fund for audits
3 of the fund.

4 (4) The department shall expend money from the fund, on
5 appropriation, only for the purpose of providing grants to public
6 institutions of higher education that have 1 or more campuses
7 designated as hunger-free campuses, as provided in this act.