



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 296

January Session, 2019

Substitute House Bill No. 7257

House of Representatives, April 2, 2019

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through REP. HADDAD of the 54th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING 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. (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Food insecurity" means the lack of available financial resources
3 needed to consistently access enough food for an active and healthy
4 life; and
- 5 (2) "Food pantry" means a site at which an organization distributes
6 food, at no charge, directly to persons in need.
- 7 (b) The Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut and the
8 Board of Regents for Higher Education shall each study the policies
9 impacting and data regarding students experiencing food insecurity at
10 the public institutions of higher education under each board's
11 jurisdiction. For the purposes of the study, each said board shall
12 document (1) during the month of October 2019, and, at the board's

13 discretion, any additional month in 2019, (A) the number of students
 14 who reported experiencing food insecurity or attempted to access
 15 benefits offered by an institution under the board's jurisdiction to
 16 students experiencing food insecurity, and (B) if an institution under
 17 the board's jurisdiction operates a food pantry, the number of students
 18 served by the food pantry and the number of pounds of food the
 19 institution distributed, and (2) during the fiscal year ending June 30,
 20 2019, if an institution under the board's jurisdiction offers emergency
 21 grants to students experiencing financial hardship, (A) the number of
 22 students who applied for such grants and total dollar amount for
 23 which such students applied, and (B) the number of students who
 24 received grants and the total dollar amount of grants distributed.

25 (c) Not later than January 1, 2020, each said board shall submit a
 26 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
 27 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
 28 having cognizance of matters relating to higher education regarding
 29 the findings of the study and, for every institution under the board's
 30 jurisdiction, such report shall include a description of (1) policies that
 31 impact a student's access to food, including, but not limited to, policies
 32 regarding the suspension of meal plans as a result of unpaid tuition or
 33 the operating hours of on-campus dining facilities during holiday or
 34 vacation periods, and (2) programs that provide benefits to students
 35 experiencing food insecurity, detailing how such programs or benefits
 36 operate, including, but not limited to, a description of how students
 37 access benefits, how the benefits are distributed or awarded, how the
 38 programs are funded and whether the benefits offered are sufficient to
 39 meet the needs of all students at the institution experiencing food
 40 insecurity.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2019	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(b), "and at the board's discretion, any additional month in 2019," was added for clarity and in Section 1(c), the last sentence was deleted for clarity.

HED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill results in no fiscal impact as the University of Connecticut and the Board of Regents have sufficient expertise to conduct a study regarding food and emergency assistance provided to students.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 7257

AN ACT CONCERNING FOOD-INSECURE STUDENTS AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/14/2019)