



House of Representatives

File No. 769

General Assembly

January Session, 2019

(Reprint of File No. 296)

Substitute House Bill No. 7257
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
April 22, 2019

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, (A) the number of students who
14 reported experiencing food insecurity or attempted to access benefits

15 offered by an institution under the board's jurisdiction to students
 16 experiencing food insecurity, and (B) if an institution under the board's
 17 jurisdiction operates a food pantry or allows the operation of a food
 18 pantry on campus, the number of students served and the number of
 19 pounds of food distributed by the food pantry, and (2) during the
 20 fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, if an institution or a duly established
 21 foundation of an institution under the board's jurisdiction offers
 22 emergency grants to students experiencing financial hardship, (A) the
 23 number of students who applied for such grants and total dollar
 24 amount for which such students applied, and (B) the number of
 25 students who received grants and the total dollar amount of grants
 26 distributed.

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

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

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 each conduct a study regarding food and emergency assistance provided to students.

House "A" alters the original bill by making technical changes to the study requirements, and has no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 7257 (as amended by House "A")

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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)