



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Raised Bill No. 7257

LCO No. 4958



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

***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 in 2019, (A) the number of
13 students who reported experiencing food insecurity or attempted to

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

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

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

Statement of Purpose:

To collect data and review policies regarding food-insecure students at public institutions of higher education.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]