



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5033

February Session, 2022



**AN ACT ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF 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. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) (a) As used in this section, (1)
2 "food insecurity" or "food insecure" means the lack of financial resources
3 needed to consistently access enough food for an active and healthy life,
4 and (2) "fruit and vegetable incentive program" means a program that
5 offers participants matching funds to purchase fruits and vegetables in
6 any increment relative to the cost of such fruits and vegetables.

7 (b) Not later than March 1, 2023, and biennially thereafter, each public
8 institution of higher education in the state shall administer a survey to
9 each student enrolled at such institution for the purpose of collecting
10 data on the number of students who are food insecure and the causes of
11 and reasons for such food insecurity. Such survey shall include, but
12 need not be limited to, questions regarding a student's (1) demographic
13 background, including age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, marital
14 status, income, education and employment; (2) specific barriers to food
15 access; and (3) awareness or use of community or institutional resources
16 to address food insecurity and any barriers to accessing such resources.

17 (c) Not later than October 1, 2023, and biennially thereafter, each
18 public institution of higher education shall evaluate any services and

19 programs offered by such institution to address the needs of food-
20 insecure students. Based on the results of the survey administered
21 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, each institution shall amend
22 any existing services or programs or establish a new service or program
23 to address the needs of food-insecure students. Such service or program
24 may include, but not be limited to, (1) assistance and support for
25 students to enroll in the supplemental nutrition assistance program
26 pursuant to the federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, or any other
27 state or federal program for nutrition assistance or financial aid,
28 including programs for families, if such program is applicable to the
29 student; (2) providing low-cost food or meal plan options on campus;
30 (3) allowing students additional meals through additional card swipes
31 on meal plans; (4) providing financial assistance or other financial
32 student aid; (5) establishing or expanding a food pantry on campus; or
33 (6) initiating a fruit and vegetable incentive program, or making such
34 program available to students through agreement with a community
35 nonprofit organization or governmental agency that provides such
36 program. When amending or establishing any service or program
37 pursuant to this subsection, each institution shall have the goal of
38 providing such service or program to not less than ten per cent of the
39 number of students identified as being food insecure in the survey
40 administered pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

41 (d) Not later than January 1, 2024, and biennially thereafter, each
42 public institution of higher education in the state shall submit a report,
43 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
44 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
45 cognizance of matters relating to higher education, regarding any food
46 insecurities among the students at such institution, including, but not
47 limited to, (1) results from the survey administered pursuant to
48 subsection (b) of this section, (2) services or programs to address the
49 needs of food insecure students, including any amendments made to
50 such services or programs pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, and
51 (3) the number of students who utilized such services or programs
52 during the preceding two years.

53 Sec. 2. Section 17b-105f of the general statutes is amended by adding
54 subsections (e) and (f) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

55 (NEW) (e) (1) Not later than January 1, 2023, and annually thereafter,
56 the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Board of Trustees of
57 The University of Connecticut shall consult with the Department of
58 Social Services for the purpose of identifying any educational program
59 offered at an institution of higher education governed by said boards
60 that qualifies as an employment and training program that increases a
61 student's employability and complies with the requirements for an
62 exemption, as specified in 7 CFR 273.5(b)(11), as amended from time to
63 time, from the supplemental nutrition assistance program eligibility
64 rule in 7 CFR 273.5(a), as amended from time to time. In identifying such
65 educational programs, the department and said boards shall seek to
66 maximize the number and types of employment and training programs
67 offered at the institution of higher education governed by said boards.

68 (2) Any independent institution of higher education in the state may,
69 in such institution's discretion, consult with the Department of Social
70 Services for the purposes set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

71 (NEW) (f) Not later than July 1, 2023, the Department of Social
72 Services, the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Board of
73 Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall each post, and regularly
74 update, on their Internet web site, the list of educational programs
75 offered at each institution of higher education governed by said boards
76 that has been qualified as an employment and training program
77 pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of this section.

78 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) For the purpose of determining
79 eligibility for the supplemental nutrition assistance program pursuant
80 to the federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended from time to
81 time, the Department of Social Services, to the extent permitted under
82 federal law, shall consider any student enrolled in an institution of
83 higher education in the state to be participating in a state or federally
84 financed work-study program if such student receives approval of

85 work-study as part of a financial aid package to attend such institution
86 of higher education, regardless of whether such student has received his
87 or her work-study program assignment.

88 Sec. 4. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2022) Each public institution of higher
89 education shall notify students regarding the supplemental nutrition
90 assistance program pursuant to the federal Food and Nutrition Act of
91 2008, as amended from time to time, including, but not limited to, (1)
92 the qualification requirements for such program, (2) the application
93 procedure for such program, and (3) where to obtain assistance in
94 completing an application for such program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2022	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2022	17b-105f
Sec. 3	July 1, 2022	New section
Sec. 4	July 1, 2022	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(a), the definition of "fruit and vegetable incentive program" was added for clarity; in Section 1(c), "amend any existing or establish new services and programs" was changed to "amend any existing services or programs or establish a new service or program" for clarity; in Section 1(c)(1) "if applicable" was changed to "if such programs are applicable" for clarity; in Section 1(c)(3), "extra" was changed to "additional" for consistency; throughout the bill, "services and programs" was changed to "service or program" for consistency; and in Section 2, "which" was changed to "that" for consistency.

HED Joint Favorable Subst.