

STATE OF NEW YORK

1151--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 7, 2021

Introduced by Sens. KAPLAN, GAUGHRAN, RIVERA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing the "hunger-free campus act"; and making an appropriation therefor

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "hunger-
2 free campus act".

3 § 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 319 to read
4 as follows:

5 § 319. Hunger-free campus grant program. 1. The commissioner shall
6 establish the hunger-free campus grant program pursuant to this section
7 and regulations of the commissioner adopted for such purpose. Within the
8 amounts appropriated for this purpose, the commissioner shall award
9 grants on a competitive basis to public and private institutions for
10 higher education which have one or more campuses that are designated by
11 the commissioner as hunger-free campuses.

12 2. The purpose of the grant funding shall be to:

13 a. address student hunger;

14 b. leverage more sustainable solutions to address basic food needs on
15 campus;

16 c. raise awareness of services currently offered on campus which
17 address basic food needs; and

18 d. continue to build strategic partnerships at the local, state, and
19 national levels to address food insecurity among students.

20 3. a. For a four-year institution to be designated as a hunger-free
21 campus, such institution shall:

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 (i) establish a hunger task force which includes student represen-
2 tatives from the student body that meets a minimum of three times per
3 academic year to set at least two goals with action plans;

4 (ii) designate a staff member responsible for assisting students with
5 enrollment in the state's supplemental nutrition assistance program
6 (SNAP);

7 (iii) provide options for students to utilize SNAP benefits at campus
8 stores or provide students with information on establishments in the
9 surrounding area of campus where they can utilize SNAP EBT benefits;

10 (iv) participate in an awareness day campaign activity and plan a
11 campus awareness event during the national hunger and homelessness
12 awareness week;

13 (v) provide at least one physical food pantry on campus, or enable
14 students to receive food through a separate, stigma-free arrangement;

15 (vi) develop a "swipe out hunger" student meal credit sharing program,
16 or designate a certain amount of funds for free meal vouchers that might
17 otherwise be raised through such a program; and

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

26 b. For a two-year institution to be designated as a hunger-free
27 campus, it shall meet all of the requirements for four-year institutions
28 as set forth in paragraph a of this subdivision, with the exception of
29 the requirements in subparagraphs (iii) and (vi) of such paragraph.

30 4. The commissioner shall allocate grant funding to each public and
31 private institution of higher education that has one or more campuses
32 designated by the commissioner as a hunger-free campus in accordance
33 with the criteria established pursuant to subdivision three of this
34 section. The commissioner shall determine the amount of each grant which
35 shall be used by the institution to further address food insecurity
36 among students enrolled in the institution.

37 5. The commissioner shall submit a report to the governor, the tempo-
38 rary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly, no later
39 than two years after the establishment of the hunger-free campus grant
40 program. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the number and
41 amounts of the grant awards, the impact the grant program has had on
42 establishing additional hunger-free campuses at public and private
43 institutions of higher education and reducing the number of students
44 experiencing food insecurity, and recommendations on the expansion of
45 the grant program.

46 § 3. The sum of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) is hereby appropri-
47 ated to the department of education from any moneys in the state treas-
48 ury in the general fund to the credit of the state purposes account, not
49 otherwise appropriated, and made immediately available, for the purpose
50 of carrying out the provisions of this act. Such moneys shall be payable
51 on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or
52 approved by the commissioner of education in the manner prescribed by
53 law.

54 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.