

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

**2023 REGULAR SESSION**

**Committee Substitute**

**for**

**Senate Bill 578**

By Senators Grady, Woelfel, Plymale, Caputo, and

Jeffries

[Originating in the Committee on Education; reported

on February 15, 2023]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article,  
 2 designated §18B-21-1, §18B-21-2, §18B-21-3, and §18B-21-4, all relating to creating the  
 3 Hunger-Free Campus Act; providing for a short title; requiring the West Virginia Higher  
 4 Education Policy Commission to establish the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program;  
 5 stating the purpose of the program and of the grant funding; establishing requirements for  
 6 an institution to be designated as a hunger-free campus; requiring, subject to availability of  
 7 funding, Chancellor for Higher Education to allocate grant funding to certain campuses;  
 8 and requiring chancellor to submit a report to the Governor and to the Legislature no later  
 9 than two years after the establishment of the program.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 21. HUNGER FREE CAMPUS ACT.**

**§18B-21-1. Short title.**

1 This article shall be known and may be cited as the "Hunger-Free Campus Act."

**§18B-21-2. Enactment and purpose.**

1 The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission shall establish a Hunger-Free  
 2 Campus Grant Program. The purpose of the program shall be to provide grants to public  
 3 institutions of higher education that have one or more campuses that are designated by the  
 4 Chancellor for Higher Education as hunger-free campuses. The purpose of the grant funding shall  
 5 be to:

- 6 (a) Address student hunger;
- 7 (b) Leverage more sustainable solutions to address basic food needs on campus;
- 8 (c) Raise awareness of services currently offered on campus which address basic food  
 9 needs; and
- 10 (d) Continue to build strategic partnerships at the local, state, and national levels to  
 11 address food insecurity among students.

**§18B-21-3. Campus qualification.**

1 In order to be designated as a hunger-free campus, the institution shall:

2 (a) Establish a Campus Hunger Task Force that meets a minimum of three times per  
3 academic year to set at least two goals with action plans;

4 (b) Designate a staff member responsible for assisting students with enrollment in West  
5 Virginia Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP);

6 (c) Provide options for students to utilize SNAP benefits at campus stores that meet the  
7 federal standards set by the Food and Nutrition Service in the United States Department of  
8 Agriculture;

9 (d) Participate in an awareness day campaign activity and plan a campus awareness event  
10 during the National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week;

11 (e) Provide at least one physical food pantry on campus, or enable students to receive food  
12 through a separate, stigma-free arrangement;

13 (f) Develop a "Swipe Out Hunger" student meal credit sharing program, or designate a  
14 certain amount of funds for free meal vouchers that might otherwise be raised through a "Swipe  
15 Out Hunger" program; and

16 (g) Annually conduct a student survey on hunger, developed by the West Virginia Higher  
17 Education Policy Commission, and submit the results of the survey and a best practices campus  
18 profile to the Chancellor for Higher Education at a time prescribed by the Chancellor for inclusion  
19 in a comparative profile of each campus designated as a hunger-free campus. In the development  
20 of the survey, the Chancellor may utilize any existing surveys designed to collect information on  
21 food insecurity among students enrolled in public institutions of higher education.

22 Subject to the availability of funding, the Chancellor for Higher Education shall allocate  
23 grant funding to each public institution of higher education that has one or more campuses  
24 designated by the Chancellor as a hunger-free campus in accordance with the criteria established  
25 pursuant to this article. The Chancellor shall determine the amount of each grant which shall be  
26 used by the institution to further address food insecurity among students enrolled in the institution.

27 Any and all grant funding shall be made from any moneys received from legislative appropriations  
28 or from any other sources provided for purposes of this article.

**§18B-21-4. Reporting requirement.**

1 The Chancellor for Higher Education shall submit a report to the Governor, and to the  
2 Legislature no later than two years after the establishment of the Hunger-Free Campus Grant  
3 Program. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the number and amounts of the grant  
4 awards, the impact the grant program has had on establishing additional hunger-free campuses at  
5 public institutions of higher education and reducing the number of students experiencing food  
6 insecurity, and recommendations on the expansion of the grant program.