



***Substitute House Bill No. 7257***

***Special Act No. 19-25***

***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:

Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Food insecurity" means the lack of available financial resources needed to consistently access enough food for an active and healthy life; and

(2) "Food pantry" means a site at which an organization distributes food, at no charge, directly to persons in need.

(b) The Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut and the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall each study the policies impacting and data regarding students experiencing food insecurity at the public institutions of higher education under each board's jurisdiction. For the purposes of the study, each said board shall document (1) during the month of October 2019, and, at the board's discretion, any additional month, (A) the number of students who reported experiencing food insecurity or attempted to access benefits offered by an institution under the board's jurisdiction to students experiencing food insecurity, and (B) if an institution under the board's jurisdiction operates a food pantry or allows the operation of a food

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pantry on campus, the number of students served and the number of pounds of food distributed by the food pantry, and (2) during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, if an institution or a duly established foundation of an institution under the board's jurisdiction offers emergency grants to students experiencing financial hardship, (A) the number of students who applied for such grants and total dollar amount for which such students applied, and (B) the number of students who received grants and the total dollar amount of grants distributed.

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