

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 888

BY REPRESENTATIVES FREIBERG, BRASS, JEFFERSON, CHARLES OWEN,
PHELPS, SCHLEGEL, ST. BLANC, AND TARVER

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:3138.4, relative to postsecondary education; to require the Board of
3 Regents to establish a process for designating an institution as a "Hunger-Free
4 Campus"; to require the Board of Regents to establish a related grant program; to
5 provide for eligibility criteria for institutions; to provide for an effective date; to
6 provide relative to reporting; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:3138.4 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §3138.4. Hunger-Free Campus; designation; grant program

10 A.(1) The Board of Regents, referred to in this Section as the "board", shall
11 establish a process for a postsecondary education institution to be designated as a
12 "Hunger-Free Campus".

13 (2) To be eligible to receive this designation, an institution shall do all of the
14 following:

15 (a) Establish a Hunger-Free Campus task force that meets a minimum of
16 three times per academic year to set at least two goals with action plans and that
17 includes, at minimum, two or more students enrolled at the institution, a
18 representative from the office of student affairs, and a representative from the office
19 of financial aid.

1 (b) Notify, on an individual basis, students who receive need-based financial
2 aid of their potential eligibility to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
3 Program (SNAP) benefits.

4 (c) Hold or participate in at least one anti-hunger awareness event per
5 academic year.

6 (d) If no campus food pantry or charitable food distribution exists on
7 campus, assess the need to provide access to on-campus food distribution, to a local
8 off-campus food pantry, or to an on-campus food pantry.

9 B.(1) The board shall develop an application process for institutions seeking
10 this designation.

11 (2) The board shall review each application and award the initial designation
12 to institutions meeting the requirements provided in Subsection A of this Section.

13 (3) The designation shall apply for two years.

14 (4) After receiving the initial designation, an institution may submit a
15 renewal application to the board in accordance with timelines established by the
16 board.

17 (5) If the board determines that the institution meets the requirements
18 specified in Subsection A of this Section based on its renewal application, the
19 institution shall receive the designation for an additional two-year period. If the
20 board determines that an institution does not meet the requirements, the board shall
21 provide written notice to the institution, and the institution shall have forty-five days
22 from receipt of the notice to correct or amend its renewal application. If the
23 institution does not submit a corrected or amended application or if the corrected or
24 amended application does not meet the requirements as determined by the board, the
25 institution shall not receive the designation for that year.

26 C.(1) The board shall establish a Hunger-Free Campus grant program. The
27 purpose of the program shall be to provide grants to the following:

28 (a) Public postsecondary education institutions designated as "Hunger-Free
29 Campuses".

1 **(b) Nonpublic, not-for-profit postsecondary education institutions that**
2 **disproportionately serve low-income students, as determined by the board, and that**
3 **have been designated as "Hunger-Free Campuses".**

4 **(2) The purpose of the grant funding shall be to assist postsecondary**
5 **education institutions in raising awareness on resources available to address basic**
6 **food needs, leveraging existing infrastructure, maximizing federal programs, and**
7 **building strategic partnerships at the local, state, and national levels to address food**
8 **insecurity among students.**

9 **(3) The board shall create an application process for postsecondary**
10 **institutions seeking grant funding.**

11 **(4) To be eligible for grant funds, postsecondary education institutions must**
12 **meet the criteria provided in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection and demonstrate**
13 **progress or commitment to implementing at least one of the following anti-hunger**
14 **initiatives:**

15 **(a) The development of a student meal credit sharing program in which**
16 **students can use either unused or donated meals from other students in prepaid meal**
17 **programs.**

18 **(b) The establishment of a campus emergency fund to support students with**
19 **emergency expenses, including but not limited to those associated with food, shelter,**
20 **utilities, and childcare.**

21 **(c) The designation of one or more staff persons responsible for assisting**
22 **food insecure students to access nutrition and other basic needs resources, including**
23 **by assisting students with the SNAP application process.**

24 **(d) The dissemination, at least once every three academic years, of an**
25 **anonymous campus-wide survey assessing student food security.**

26 **(e) The establishment of an on-campus food pantry.**

27 **(5) The awarding of grants through the program is subject to the**
28 **appropriation of funds by the legislature for this purpose.**

29 Section 2. The Board of Regents shall submit a report to the governor, the House
30 Committee on Education, and the Senate Committee on Education not later than two years

1 after the establishment of the Hunger-Free Campus grant program. The report shall include,
 2 at minimum, the number and amounts of the grant awards, the impact the grant program has
 3 had on establishing additional hunger-free campuses at public postsecondary education
 4 institutions, and any recommendations relative to the expansion of the grant program.

5 Section 3. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Hunger-Free Campus
 6 Act".

7 Section 4. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 8 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 9 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 10 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 11 effective on the day following such approval.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____