

HB383 INTRODUCED



1 HB383
2 QUIA451-1
3 By Representative Almond
4 RFD: Ways and Means Education
5 First Read: 02-Apr-24



SYNOPSIS:

This bill would require the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) to establish a process for eligible public institutions of higher education to be designated as Hunger-Free Campuses.

This bill would provide application and eligibility requirements for designation as a Hunger-Free Campus.

This bill would provide that each designation expires after two years, at which point an eligible public institution of higher education may apply to renew the designation.

This bill would also require ACHE to adopt rules.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to public institutions of higher education; to provide for the designation of each eligible public institution of higher education as a Hunger-Free Campus; to provide application, eligibility, and renewal criteria; and to require the Alabama Commission on Higher Education to adopt



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29 rules.

30 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

31 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as
32 the Hunger-Free Campus Act.

33 Section 2. For the purposes of this act, the following
34 terms have the following meanings:

35 (1) COMMISSION or ACHE. The Alabama Commission on
36 Higher Education.

37 (2) PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION. Those
38 four-year public educational institutions in Alabama which
39 have been authorized by the Legislature or by the constitution
40 to provide formal education, including vocational, technical,
41 collegiate, professional, or any other form of education,
42 above the secondary school level.

43 (3) SNAP. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
44 Program.

45 Section 3. (a) The Alabama Commission on Higher
46 Education shall establish a process to designate each eligible
47 public institution of higher education as a Hunger-Free
48 Campus.

49 (b) ACHE shall develop an application process for
50 public institutions of higher education seeking to be
51 designated as a Hunger-Free Campus. ACHE shall review each
52 application and award the designation to each public
53 institution of higher education that meets the eligibility
54 requirements provided in Section 4.

55 Section 4. To be eligible for designation as a
56 Hunger-Free Campus, a public institution of higher education



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shall:

(1) Establish a Hunger-Free Task Force. Each task force shall meet at least three times per academic year, annually set at least two goals related to hunger, and develop action plans for each goal. The membership of each Hunger-Free Task Force shall include, but not be limited to:

a. At least two students enrolled at that public institution of higher education;

b. A representative from the office of student affairs of that public institution of higher education;

c. A representative from the financial aid office of that public institution of higher education; and

d. Any other members selected by the public institution of higher education.

(2) Designate a staff member to be responsible for assisting students with receiving information on SNAP benefits in Alabama.

(3) Either: (i) provide options for students to utilize SNAP benefits on each campus; or (ii) provide students with information on establishments in the area surrounding each campus where they can utilize SNAP benefits.

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

(5) Provide: (i) at least one physical food pantry on each campus; or (ii) information about community supported food pantries in the area surrounding each campus.

(6) Either: (i) develop a student meal credit donation program; or (ii) develop and implement a program to provide



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85 free food vouchers, such as grocery store gift cards, to
86 students.

87 (7) Operate a student survey about hunger and other
88 basic needs of students. The survey shall be administered at
89 least every two years. Each public institution of higher
90 education may administer the survey itself or partner with a
91 local community-based organization to do so.

92 Section 5. (a) Designation as a Hunger-Free Campus
93 shall apply for two years, at which point a public institution
94 of higher education may submit an application to renew the
95 designation for an additional two years.

96 (b) If ACHE determines that a public institution of
97 higher education does not meet the requirements to renew its
98 designation, the commission shall: (i) provide written notice
99 to the public institution of higher education that it has not
100 met the criteria; and (ii) provide the public institution of
101 higher education 45 days from the receipt of notice to correct
102 or amend its renewal application. If the public institution of
103 higher education does not submit a corrected or amended
104 renewal application that indicates compliance with the renewal
105 requirements, the public institution of higher education may
106 not be designated as a Hunger-Free Campus.

107 (c) A public institution of higher education whose
108 designation as a Hunger-Free Campus is not renewed may not
109 apply for designation again until the following academic year.

110 Section 6. The Alabama Commission on Higher Education
111 shall adopt rules to administer this act.

112 Section 7. This act shall become effective on October



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113 1, 2024.