

**HB273 ENGROSSED**



1      HB273  
2      EJZT692-2  
3      By Representatives Collins, Almond  
4      RFD: Ways and Means Education  
5      First Read: 13-Feb-25



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5 A BILL  
6 TO BE ENTITLED  
7 AN ACT

To create the Hunger-Free Campus Act administered by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education; to provide for the designation of a qualified institution of higher education as a hunger-free campus; to provide application, eligibility, and renewal criteria; and to require the commission to adopt necessary rules.

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

19                   Section 2. For the purposes of this act, the following  
20                   terms have the following meanings:

21 (1) COMMISSION. The Alabama Commission on Higher  
22 Education



29 (3) SNAP. The federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance  
30 Program.

40                   Section 4. To be eligible for designation as a  
41   hunger-free campus, an institution of higher education shall  
42   do all of the following:

43 (1) Establish a hunger-free task force. A task force  
44 shall meet at least three times per academic year, annually  
45 establish at least two program goals, and develop action plans  
46 for each of those goals. The membership of a task force, at a  
47 minimum, shall include all of the following:

48 a. At least two students who are enrolled in and  
49 attending the institution of higher education.

52 c. A representative from the financial aid office of  
53 the institution of higher education

(2) Designate a staff member to be responsible for



57 assisting students with receiving information on SNAP benefits  
58 in the state.

59 (3) Either: (i) provide options for students to utilize  
60 SNAP benefits on each campus; or (ii) provide students with  
61 information on local establishments in the geographic area  
62 surrounding each campus where students may use SNAP benefits.

63 (4) Hold or participate in at least one food insecurity  
64 awareness event per academic year.

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

68 (6) Either: (i) develop a student meal credit donation  
69 program; or (ii) develop and implement a program to provide  
70 free food vouchers including, but not limited to, grocery  
71 store gift cards, to students.

72 (7) Administer a student survey about food insecurity  
73 and other basic needs of students at least every two years.  
74 Each institution of higher education may partner with a local  
75 community-based organization to coordinate survey efforts.

76 Section 5. (a) Designation as a hunger-free campus  
77 shall be valid for two years, and, upon application to the  
78 commission, may be renewed for an additional two years.

79 (b) If the commission determines that an institution of  
80 higher education does not meet the requirements to renew its  
81 designation, the commission shall do both of the following:

82 a. Provide written notice to the institution of higher  
83 education that the institution of higher education has not met  
84 the criteria in Section 4.



85                   b. Provide the institution of higher education within  
86    45 days from the receipt of notice to correct or amend its  
87    renewal application. If the institution of higher education  
88    does not submit a corrected or amended renewal application  
89    that indicates compliance with the renewal requirements, the  
90    designation as a hunger-free campus shall not be renewed.

91                   (c) An institution of higher education whose  
92    designation as a hunger-free campus is not renewed may not  
93    apply for the designation again until the following academic  
94    year.

95                   Section 6. Subject to the appropriation of funds by the  
96    Legislature, the commission shall accept grant requests from  
97    any institution of higher education designated as a  
98    hunger-free campus and shall award grants to those designated  
99    institutions of higher education on a competitive basis. The  
100   commission shall determine the amount of each grant,  
101   prioritizing grants made to designated institutions of higher  
102   education with the highest percentages of eligible Pell Grant  
103   recipient enrollment. The grants shall be used for the  
104   purchase of equipment and supplies including, but not limited  
105   to, refrigeration appliances and shelving for the conversion  
106   or upgrade of existing facilities to house food pantries.

107                  Section 7. The commission shall adopt rules as  
108    necessary to administer and implement the program. A  
109    percentage of any appropriation made to the commission for the  
110    program may be expended by the commission for the operation  
111    and maintenance of the program. Any funds appropriated to the  
112    program shall be non-reverting.



113           Section 8. Grant recipients shall submit an annual  
114    report to the commission regarding hunger-free activities on  
115    the campus during the prior year and describe how grant awards  
116    were used. The commission shall provide an annual report to  
117    the Chair of the House Ways and Means Education Committee and  
118    the Chair of the Senate Finance and Taxation Education  
119    Committee to account for the use of funds and the  
120    effectiveness of the grant program.

121           Section 9. This act shall become effective on October  
122    1, 2025.



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House of Representatives

126 Read for the first time and referred .....13-Feb-25  
127 to the House of Representatives  
128 committee on Ways and Means  
129 Education  
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131 Read for the second time and placed .....17-Apr-25  
132 on the calendar:  
133 1 amendment  
134  
135 Read for the third time and passed .....22-Apr-25  
136 as amended  
137 Yeas 96  
138 Nays 2  
139 Abstains 4  
140  
141  
142 John Treadwell  
143 Clerk  
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