

# 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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A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
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.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

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

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

(2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION. A public or private two-year or four-year institution of higher education which provides vocational, technical, collegiate, professional, or any other form of education above the secondary school level and is accredited by a recognized regional or national accrediting agency.



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

31 Section 3. The commission, by rule, shall establish an  
32 application process for qualified institutions of higher  
33 education to be designated as hunger-free campuses. The  
34 process shall include the completion and submission to the  
35 commission of an application form developed by the commission,  
36 the review of each submitted application form by the  
37 commission, and the award of the designation to each  
38 institution of higher education that meets the eligibility  
39 requirements provided in Section 4.

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.

50 b. A representative from the office of student affairs  
51 of the institution of higher education.

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

54 d. Any additional members deemed appropriate by the  
55 institution of higher education.

56 (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.



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

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

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

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



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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  
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135 Read for the third time and passed .....22-Apr-25  
136 as amended  
137 Yeas 96  
138 Nays 2  
139 Abstains 4  
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John Treadwell  
Clerk