

HOUSE BILL No. 1154

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 21-18-22.

Synopsis: Hunger-free campus grant program. Establishes the hunger-free campus grant program (grant program) to provide grants to state educational institutions for purposes of addressing food insecurity among students enrolled in state educational institutions. Provides that the commission for higher education (commission) shall provide a grant under the grant program to a state educational institution if at least one campus is designated by the commission as a hunger-free campus. Establishes criteria that a campus of a state educational institution must meet in order to be designated as a hunger-free campus. Makes an appropriation.

Effective: July 1, 2026.

Harris

January 5, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Education.



Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1154

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning higher education and to make an appropriation.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 21-18-22 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2026]:

4 **Chapter 22. Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program**

5 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "grant fund" refers to the**
6 **hunger-free campus grant fund established by section 5 of this**
7 **chapter.**

8 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "grant program" refers to the**
9 **hunger-free campus grant program established by section 4 of this**
10 **chapter.**

11 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "SNAP" refers to the**
12 **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program under IC 12-14-30.**

13 **Sec. 4. (a) The hunger-free campus grant program is established**
14 **to provide grants on a competitive basis to state educational**
15 **institutions for the purposes of:**

16 **(1) addressing student hunger;**
17 **(2) leveraging sustainable solutions to address the basic needs**



of students at state educational institutions;

(3) raising awareness of the basic needs services offered at state educational institutions; and

(4) building strategic partnerships at the local, state, and national levels to address food insecurity among students at postsecondary educational institutions.

(b) The commission shall administer the grant program.

Sec. 5. (a) The hunger-free campus grant fund is established for the purpose of providing grants to state educational institutions under the grant program.

(b) The commission shall administer the grant fund.

(c) The grant fund consists of:

(1) money appropriated to the grant fund by the general assembly;

(2) money transferred to the grant fund by the commission; and

(3) gifts, grants, devises, bequests, and other donations made to the grant fund.

(d) The expenses of administering the grant fund shall be paid from money in the grant fund.

(e) Money in the grant fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not revert to the state general fund but remains available to be:

(1) used for the purposes of the grant program; or

(2) transferred by the commission to another fund administered by the commission.

Sec. 6. (a) To the extent that sufficient money is available in the grant fund, the commission shall provide a grant from the grant fund to a state educational institution if the commission designates at least one (1) campus of the state educational institution as a hunger-free campus.

(b) A campus of a state educational institution that meets the following requirements may be designated by the commission as a hunger-free campus:

(1) The campus establishes a hunger task force that:

(A) includes student representatives from the student body of the campus;

(B) meets at least three (3) times each academic year; and

(C) sets at least two (2) goals with action plans in furtherance of the purposes described in section 4(a) of this chapter.

(2) The campus designates a member of the campus's staff to be responsible for providing students with information



regarding enrollment in SNAP.

(3) The campus:

(A) allows students to use SNAP benefits at campus stores;
or

(B) provides students with information regarding establishments in the surrounding area at which students can use SNAP electronic benefits transfers.

(4) The campus holds an awareness day campaign activity or event during the national hunger and homelessness awareness week.

(5) The campus:

(A) provides at least one (1) physical food pantry on campus; or

(B) enables students to receive food through a separate, stigma-free arrangement.

(6) The campus:

(A) develops a student meal credit donation program; or

(B) allocates a designated amount of funds for free food vouchers for students.

(7) The campus biannually:

(A) conducts a student survey on hunger developed by the commission; and

(B) submits:

(i) the results of the survey; and

(ii) a best practices campus profile;

to the commission at a time prescribed by the commission.

(c) The commission shall determine the amount of a grant provided to a state educational institution under this section.

(d) The commission shall give priority to a state educational institution where a larger proportion of the state educational institution's student body is receiving a Pell grant when providing a grant under this section.

(e) A state educational institution that receives a grant under this section shall:

(1) use the grant funds for the purposes described in section 4(a) of this chapter; and

(2) report to the commission, in the manner and on the schedule prescribed by the commission, the purposes for which the grant funds were used and the results obtained by the state educational institution as a result of the state educational institution's use of the grant funds.

(f) A state educational institution may partner with a local food



bank or food pantry to meet the requirement under subsection (b)(5).

(g) In the development of the survey under subsection (b)(7), the commission shall use any existing surveys designed to collect information regarding food insecurity among students enrolled in state educational institutions.

(h) The commission shall use the results of the survey under subsection (b)(7) to compile and publish on the commission's website a comparative profile of each campus designated as a hunger-free campus.

Sec. 7. (a) Not later than July 1, 2029, the commission shall submit to the governor, the president pro tempore of the senate, and the speaker of the house of representatives a report regarding the grant program that includes:

(1) the number of grants awarded under the grant program and the amount of each grant;

(2) a description of the effect the grant program has had on establishing additional hunger-free campuses at state educational institutions and reducing the number of students at state educational institutions experiencing food insecurity; and

(3) the commission's recommendations regarding the potential establishment of an annual appropriation for the grant program.

(b) A report submitted to the president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives must be in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.

Sec. 8. The commission shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to carry out this chapter.

Sec. 9. (a) The commission shall transfer:

(1) one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from the funds appropriated to the commission for the state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2027, and ending June 30, 2028; and

(2) one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) from the funds appropriated to the commission for the state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2028, and ending June 30, 2029;

to the grant fund for the purpose of providing grants under this chapter.

(b) This section expires December 31, 2029.

SECTION 2. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026] (a) There is appropriated from the state general fund to the hunger-free campus grant fund established by IC 21-18-22-5, as added by this



1 **act, two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) for the state**
2 **fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, for**
3 **use by the commission for higher education in providing grants**
4 **under IC 21-18-22, as added by this act.**
5 **(b) This SECTION expires December 31, 2027.**

