

HB 3089 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education

Action Date: 03/02/23

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 7-1-1-0

Yeas: 7 - Bowman, Hudson, Lively, Mannix, McIntire, Ruiz, Sosa

Nays: 1 - Elmer

Exc: 1 - Wright

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/7, 2/16, 3/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows public institutions of higher education except for Oregon Health and Science University to apply for Hunger Free Campus designation. Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to establish application process in rule. Establishes requirements for receiving Hunger Free Campus designation, including establishing hunger task force; designating staff member responsible for assisting students with enrollment in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); providing SNAP benefit-eligible food options on campus or information about off-campus options; hosting campus awareness event; providing on-campus or access to off-campus food pantry; developing meal credit donation program or free meal vouchers, including subsidies for student grocery purchases; and conducting biennial student survey on hunger. Establishes grant program to fund student hunger programs administered by HECC and appropriates \$5 million General Fund. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Stability and sufficiency of funding sources for student food programs
- Rates of food insecurity at college and university campuses

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Modifies qualifying activities for Hunger Free Campus designation and criteria used by Higher Education Coordinating Commission to prioritize grant awards.

BACKGROUND:

Some qualifying activities established in House Bill 3089 A already take place at some colleges and universities in Oregon. For example, House Bill 2835 (2021) established state-funded benefits navigator positions at all universities and colleges, which may fulfill the requirement of designating a staff member to assist students with enrollment in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Similarly, a number of campuses already have either an on-campus food pantry or a relationship with an off-campus food pantry, and/or provide information on SNAP benefit-eligible food options; these programs are often managed by the benefits navigator employed by the campus under House Bill 2835 (2021). In contrast, HECC has not developed a biennial student survey on hunger and this would need to be before colleges and universities could meet that requirement.

House Bill 3089 A establishes the Hunger Free Campus designation, allows public colleges and universities to apply to HECC for the designation in accordance with statutory requirements, and establishes grant funding for universities and colleges to create student hunger programs.