

**SENATE . . . . . No. 835**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Joan B. Lovely***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

**An Act establishing the Massachusetts Hunger-Free Campus Initiative.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Robyn K. Kennedy</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>Hampden and Hampshire</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>John J. Cronin</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/21/2023</i>
<i>Liz Miranda</i>	<i>Second Suffolk</i>	<i>2/21/2023</i>

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By Ms. Lovely, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 835) of Joan B. Lovely, Michael O. Moore, Sal N. DiDomenico, Robyn K. Kennedy and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish the Massachusetts Hunger-Free Campus Initiative. Higher Education.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 2811 OF 2021-2022.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act establishing the Massachusetts Hunger-Free Campus Initiative.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 15A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the  
2 following section:-

3 Section 46. (a) Subject to appropriation, there shall be a hunger-free campus grant  
4 program managed by the department to provide grants to institutions of public higher education  
5 to address student food insecurity and hunger in order to support students in completion of their  
6 career and technical education at the post-secondary level with the goal of enhancing the  
7 workforce of the commonwealth. This grant program shall also be available to municipally  
8 administered colleges and to minority serving institutions as defined under 20 U.S.C. 1067k (3)  
9 as determined by the United States Department of Education. Using funding allocated under the  
10 grant program, the department is authorized to hire a director of the program who shall report to

11 the commissioner. The director shall develop guidelines and procedures governing the grant  
12 making process and the program using available data pertaining to student hunger. The director  
13 may also conduct any additional surveys the department deems necessary to understand gaps in  
14 addressing student food insecurity and hunger eligible higher education campuses across the  
15 commonwealth. The guidelines and procedures that govern the program shall specify any  
16 requirements applicable to eligible institutions of higher education including, but not limited to:  
17 (i) whether the institution has designated campus staff to interface with the department; (ii) the  
18 existence and extent of any campus-level hunger awareness programs, including notification to  
19 students of their rights to participate in federal and state food assistance programs; (iii) whether  
20 the institution has established on-campus meal vendors to accept available federal and state  
21 nutrition benefits; (iv) the existence or development of a student meal credit sharing program; (v)  
22 income based standards by which grant levels are determined according to the student population  
23 at each participating campus; and (vi) any other pertinent criteria as developed by the  
24 department. The department shall further develop and deliver technical assistance to assist  
25 eligible institutions of higher education to meet the goals of this program.

26 (b) Subject to appropriation, the department shall award grants to institutions that have  
27 met the guidelines and procedures established by the department. Upon recommendation by the  
28 director of the program, the commissioner or a designee shall determine the amount of each grant  
29 which shall be used by the institution to address food insecurity among its students in accordance  
30 with the program and shall establish reporting guidelines for grant recipients.

31 (c) Annually, not later than July 1, the department shall submit a report on the hunger-  
32 free campus grant program for the preceding fiscal year to the governor, the clerks of the senate  
33 and house of representatives and the joint committee on higher education. The report shall

34 include the number and amounts of grants to eligible institutions well as a comprehensive  
35 assessment of the program for the applicable year, including: (i) identifying the institutions  
36 participating in the program; (ii) describing the activities of participating campuses; (iii) the level  
37 of student engagement in activities; and (iv) the outcomes resulting from activities.

38 (d) There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate  
39 fund to be known as the Hunger-Free Campus Trust Fund administered by the commissioner of  
40 higher education. The fund shall be credited with: (i) revenue from appropriations or other  
41 money authorized by the general court and specifically designated to be credited to the fund; (ii)  
42 interest earned on such revenues; and (iii) funds from public and private sources such as gifts,  
43 grants and donations. Amounts credited to the fund shall not be subject to further appropriation  
44 and any money remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the General  
45 Fund. Amounts credited to the fund shall be used to fund grants made pursuant to the program,  
46 and for the cost of administration of such program by the department of higher education.

47 (e) Annually, not later than October 1, the commissioner shall report to the clerks of the  
48 senate and house of representatives, the joint committee on higher education and the house and  
49 senate committees on ways and means on the fund's activity including: (i) the source and amount  
50 of funds received; (ii) the amounts distributed and the purpose of expenditures from the fund;  
51 (iii) any grants provided to institutions of higher education and other stakeholder organizations;  
52 and (iv) anticipated revenue and expenditure projections for the next year.