

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 23.1-409.2, relating to institutions of*
 3 *higher education; Hunger-Free Campus Food Pantry Grant Program established; report.*

4 [H 2240]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 23.1-409.2 as follows:**8 **§ 23.1-409.2. Hunger-Free Campus Food Pantry Grant Program.**

9 *A. As used in this section, "eligible private institution of higher education" means a nonprofit private*
 10 *institution of higher education whose primary purpose is to provide collegiate, graduate, or professional*
 11 *education and not to provide religious training or theological education.*

12 *B. The Hunger-Free Campus Food Pantry Grant Program (the Program) is established for the purposes*
 13 *of (i) addressing student food insecurity at public institutions of higher education and eligible private*
 14 *institutions of higher education; (ii) leveraging more sustainable solutions to address basic food needs on*
 15 *campuses of public institutions of higher education and eligible private institutions of higher education; (iii)*
 16 *raising awareness of services offered on campuses at public institutions of higher education and eligible*
 17 *private institutions of higher education to address food insecurity; and (iv) building strategic partnerships at*
 18 *the federal, state, and local levels to address food insecurity among students at public institutions of higher*
 19 *education. The Program shall be managed by the Council and available for participation by public*
 20 *institutions of higher education; however, participation in the Program shall be optional for such institutions.*
 21 *The Council shall review applications from such institutions, and if an institution satisfies the criteria set out*
 22 *in subsection C, it shall receive a "Hunger-Free Campus Food Pantry" designation and the Council shall*
 23 *award a grant to such institution. The Council shall prioritize grants and grant amounts to institutions with*
 24 *the highest percentage of students eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant enrolled in such institution. The*
 25 *Program shall be funded as grants are appropriated. An institution that receives a grant pursuant to this*
 26 *section shall utilize the funds to support on-campus efforts and initiatives to eliminate student food insecurity*
 27 *at such institution through the maintenance and operation of its food pantry established pursuant to*
 28 *subsection C.*

29 *C. To receive a "Hunger-Free Campus Food Pantry" designation and receive funding under the Program,*
 30 *a public institution of higher education or an eligible private institution of higher education shall establish an*
 31 *on-campus food pantry or partner with a local food bank to provide information to students about food*
 32 *services in the local area. All food provided from the on-campus food pantry shall be free of charge, and no*
 33 *student shall be required to demonstrate food insecurity to access such pantry. However, an institution may*
 34 *require that an individual show a valid student identification card to access food from the on-campus food*
 35 *pantry.*

36 **2. That the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia shall submit a public report to the**
 37 **Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education**
 38 **no later than two years after the establishment of the Hunger-Free Campus Food Pantry Grant**
 39 **Program (the Program) established under § 23.1-409.2 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act.**
 40 **The report shall include (i) the total number and amounts of grant awards, (ii) information about the**
 41 **impact that the Program has had on reducing food insecurity in participating institutions of higher**
 42 **education, and (iii) recommendations regarding the potential establishment of an annual appropriation**
 43 **for the Program.**