Department of Planning and Budget
2025 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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Bill Number: HB2240ER **Patron:** Cousins
Bill Title: Institutions of higher education; Hunger-Free Campus Food Pantry Grant Program established; report.

Bill Summary: Establishes the Hunger-Free Campus Food Pantry Grant Program to address student food insecurity at public institutions of higher education and eligible private institutions of higher education, as defined by the bill. The bill provides that the Program shall be managed by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and available for participation by public institutions of higher education; however, participation in the Program is optional for such institutions. Under the bill, if an institution of higher education satisfies certain criteria set out in the bill, including creating initiatives on campus to address student food insecurity, it will receive a "Hunger-Free Campus Food Pantry" designation and the Council will award a grant to such institution. Any such institution that receives a grant under the bill is required to utilize the funds to support on-campus efforts and initiatives to eliminate student food insecurity at such institution through the maintenance and operation of the on-campus food pantry established pursuant to the Program. The bill requires the Council to submit a report to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education no later than two years after the establishment of the Program.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** N/A
Explanation: N/A

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) can absorb the administrative components of this bill within existing resources. Any fiscal impact related to grants is indeterminate and subject to appropriation.

Fiscal Analysis: None.

Other: The bill establishes this grant program to support Hunger-Free Campus Food Pantries at public and eligible private institutions of higher education (IHE), and paragraph C. indicates that both public and eligible private IHEs are eligible for the designation and grant funding; however, paragraph B. states that the program shall be managed by SCHEV and available for participation by public institutions of higher education. It's unclear if the bill proposes appropriation of state funds for grant payments to private institutions of higher education, which may conflict with Article VIII, Section 10 of the Constitution of Virginia. While the bill does not identify a funding source for this program, in the event general fund is appropriated for these purposes, payments to private institutions from the general fund appropriation may be prohibited.

This bill is a companion to SB1016.