

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB318

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Roem

3. Committee: Education and Health

4. Title: Public institutions of higher education; Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program established; report.

5. Summary: Establishes the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program (the Program) to address student food insecurity at public institutions of higher education. 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 shall be optional for such institutions. Under the bill, if a public institution of higher education satisfies certain criteria set out in the bill, including creating initiatives on campus to address student food insecurity, it shall be designated as a "Hunger-Free Campus" and the Council shall award a grant to such institution. A public institution of higher education that receives a grant under the bill shall utilize the funds to support on-campus efforts and initiatives to eliminate student food insecurity at such institution. 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.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate. See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: The cost of the grant program depends on the actual amount appropriated by the General Assembly.

Any impacts to public institutions of higher education (IHEs) are indeterminate at this time. The bill makes the program participation optional for IHEs; however, multiple institutions have cited that while they already meet specifications of the grant, there may be salary and administrative costs associated with ensuring that student access to and use of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is executed properly on campus.

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) does not have staff or appropriation available to support the administration of this new program. SCHEV anticipates needing a quarter of one full-time employee, which is estimated at \$25,000 per year, to administer the new grant program, enforce regulations, and meet reporting requirements. Multiple bills place similar requirements on SCHEV related to new programs.

Depending on the number of programs established under SCHEV, SCHEV may support these activities with a wage employee or may need to hire an additional employee to support multiple new programs.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Public institutions of higher education, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: This bill is identical to HB827 and similar to HB207 and HB881.