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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 590  
135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 590's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Brennan and Dobos

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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### Highlights

- The bill appropriates \$2.5 million in FY 2025 from the GRF for the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) to award Hunger-Free Campus grants to certain public and private nonprofit institutions of higher education to support efforts to address food insecurity among their students, raise awareness on resources available to address basic food needs, and pursue the hunger-free campus designation.

### Detailed Analysis

The bill appropriates \$2.5 million in FY 2025 from new GRF line item 235498, Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program, under the Ohio Department of Higher Education's (ODHE) budget for the Chancellor of Higher Education to establish and administer the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program. Under the program, a qualifying public or private nonprofit institution of higher education, preferably ones with a higher percentage of federal Pell grant-eligible students enrolled, may receive initial grants for demonstrating a commitment to food assistance and basic needs programs and an intention to pursue the hunger-free campus designation. Institutions with an existing hunger-free campus designation qualify for additional grants and higher grant awards. Grants under the program will support or leverage existing basic needs infrastructure; maximize federal programs; build strategic partnerships at the local, state, and national levels to address food insecurity among students; and to raise awareness on resources available to address basic food needs. Within two years of establishing the program, ODHE must prepare and submit to the Governor and the General Assembly a report on the program that includes certain information and examples obtained from recipient institutions and recommendations for creating an annual appropriation for the program.

In addition to administering the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program, the bill requires ODHE to develop an application process for a qualifying institution to receive a hunger-free

campus designation. To receive this designation, which would last two years, a qualifying institution must satisfy two conditions. First, a qualifying institution must either (1) provide free meals or establish campus emergency funds for students with demonstrated food insecurity or (2) assist students with accessing food pantries or charitable food distributions by establishing an on-campus food pantry or charitable distribution available free of charge to all students. If an institution establishes an on-campus food pantry, the bill requires the pantry to be staffed and located in a safe and secure environment. Second, a qualifying institution must satisfy at least three of the following five criteria:

1. Ensure that students have access to certain information on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), other food assistance programs, and basic needs security programs;
2. Designate at least one on-campus employee as a contact for information on SNAP, other food assistance programs, and basic needs security programs;
3. Notify, on an individual basis, students who receive need-based financial aid of their potential eligibility to receive benefits under SNAP;
4. Conduct an anonymous, campus-wide survey assessing student food security at least once every two years; or
5. Sponsor at least one event per academic semester to spread awareness about student hunger and provide information to students about services available on campus to alleviate student hunger.