

HOUSE No. 1293

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Andres X. Vargas and Mindy Domb

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 hunger free campus initiative.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Andres X. Vargas</i>	<i>3rd Essex</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>
<i>James C. Arena-DeRosa</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Rodney M. Elliott</i>	<i>16th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2023</i>
<i>Patricia A. Duffy</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>	<i>2/2/2023</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>	<i>2/2/2023</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	<i>2/2/2023</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2023</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/2/2023</i>
<i>Kathleen R. LaNatra</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/3/2023</i>
<i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Daniel R. Carey</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>John J. Cronin</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/7/2023</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/7/2023</i>
<i>Joan Meschino</i>	<i>3rd Plymouth</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>2/9/2023</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>2/10/2023</i>

<i>Priscila S. Sousa</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/15/2023</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/15/2023</i>
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/16/2023</i>
<i>Carol A. Doherty</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>	<i>2/20/2023</i>
<i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>	<i>2/21/2023</i>
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>2/22/2023</i>
<i>John Barrett, III</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>	<i>2/22/2023</i>
<i>Russell E. Holmes</i>	<i>6th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/22/2023</i>
<i>Erika Uytterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/22/2023</i>
<i>Manny Cruz</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>	<i>2/23/2023</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>	<i>2/27/2023</i>
<i>Danillo A. Sena</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/28/2023</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/1/2023</i>
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>	<i>3/1/2023</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>3/1/2023</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>3/2/2023</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>	<i>3/13/2023</i>
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/14/2023</i>
<i>Samantha Montaña</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/21/2023</i>
<i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i>	<i>Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester</i>	<i>3/22/2023</i>
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	<i>3/26/2023</i>
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>	<i>3/30/2023</i>
<i>Peter Capano</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>	<i>3/30/2023</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>3/30/2023</i>
<i>Christopher M. Markey</i>	<i>9th Bristol</i>	<i>3/31/2023</i>
<i>Rita A. Mendes</i>	<i>11th Plymouth</i>	<i>4/4/2023</i>
<i>Ryan M. Hamilton</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>	<i>4/11/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 1293

By Representatives Vargas of Haverhill and Domb of Amherst, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1293) of Andres X. Vargas, Mindy Domb and others for legislation to establish a hunger-free campus grant program. Higher Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing the 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 Chapter 15A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

2

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.

10 Using funding allocated under the grant program, the department is authorized to hire a
11 director of the program who shall report to the commissioner. The director shall develop
12 guidelines and procedures governing the grant making process and the program using available

13 data pertaining to student hunger. The director may also conduct any additional surveys the
14 department deems necessary to understand gaps in addressing student food insecurity and hunger
15 eligible higher education campuses across the commonwealth.

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

27 (b) Subject to appropriation, the department shall award grants to institutions that have
28 met the guidelines and procedures established by the department. Upon recommendation by the
29 director of the program, the

30 commissioner or a designee shall determine the amount of each grant which shall be used
31 by the institution to address food insecurity among its students in accordance with the program
32 and shall establish reporting guidelines for grant recipients.

33 (c) Annually, not later than July 1, the department shall submit a report on the hunger-
34 free campus grant program for the preceding fiscal year to the governor, the clerks of the senate

35 and house of representatives and the joint committee on higher education. The report shall
36 include the number and amounts of grants to eligible institutions well as a comprehensive
37 assessment of the program for the applicable year, including: (i) identifying the institutions
38 participating in the program; (ii) describing the activities of participating campuses; (iii) the level
39 of student engagement in activities; and (iv) the outcomes resulting from activities.

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

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