

**Joint Committee on Higher Education Bill  
Summary**

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<b><u>BILL NUMBER</u></b>	S.922
<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	An Act relative to the Bean New Deal
<b><u>SPONSORS</u></b>	Senator Creem
<b><u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u></b>	-
<b><u>PRIOR HISTORY</u></b>	New File

**SUMMARY**

This bill requires plant-based protein meal options to be made available in higher education institutions, senior nutrition hot lunch delivery, the Massachusetts Food Trust program, National School Lunch/Child Adult Food Care orgs, culinary programs, the Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Framework, and WIC food packages. It also requires targeted education on the benefits of a plant-based diet.

**SECTION-BY-SECTION**

**Section 1:** Inserts section 74 into chapter 7C; Requires the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) to ensure that all public higher education institutions and commonwealth agencies and authorities offer at least one plant-based protein option at every meal.

**Section 2:** Inserts section 48 into chapter 15A; Requires all public higher education culinary programs to provide instruction on the benefits of integrating plant-based protein into daily diets.

**Section 3:** Inserts section 45 into chapter 19A; Requires the Department of Elder Affairs to ensure that all recipients of the senior nutrition home-delivery hot lunch can request and receive plant-based protein sources. Requires program providers serving congregate meals to offer one or more plant-based protein sources at every meal.

**Section 4-6:** Amends section 65 of chapter 23A; Includes increasing awareness of and access to plant-based protein sources in public institutions into the Massachusetts Food Trust Program's mission and goals.

**Section 7:** Inserts section 38 into chapter 69; Requires the Office for Food and Nutrition Programs within DESE to offer training on plant-based sources to National School Lunch and Child Adult Food Care participating schools and organizations. Prioritizes food-related grants

toward applicants that are increasing access and/or awareness of plant-based protein.

**Section 8:** Inserts section 59 into chapter 74; Requires all state-approved culinary arts programs in Career and Technical Education schools to provide instruction on the benefits and integration of plant-based protein sources.

**Section 9:** WIC program authorities shall consider including plant-based options within food packages, and participants shall have the right to assert plant-based diet preferences and receive food packages that reflect these preferences.

**Section 10:** DESE shall update the Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Framework to include information on plant-based diet maintenance and benefits.