

S.F. No. 1103 – Expanding the Hunger-Free Campus Designation

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Senate File No. 1103 expands the Hunger-Free Campus designation and provides funding for campuses to meet and maintain the criteria for the designation. The Hunger-Free Campus designation was passed in the 2019 Legislature for two-year Minnesota state colleges. This bill expands the designation to Minnesota state universities and the University of Minnesota system and provides grants to campuses to meet and maintain the designation. To receive a hunger-free designation, the campus must meet the criteria listed in the bill.

Sections 1 and 2 (136F.245, subs. 1 and 2) expand the hunger-free campus designation to Minnesota state universities and makes conforming changes.

Section 3 (137.375) establishes the hunger-free campus designation for the University of Minnesota. In order to receive the designation, the campus must:

- 1) have an established on-campus food pantry or partnership with a local food bank;
- 2) provide information to students on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), and other programs that reduce food insecurity;
- 3) hold or participate in one hunger awareness event per academic year;
- 4) have an established emergency assistance grant that is available to students, and
- 5) establish a hunger task force.

The student association at each campus is responsible for creating an application process and an award, and provides final approval for the designation at each university.

Section 4 appropriates funds for the hunger-free campus grants. The commissioner is allowed to transfer unencumbered balances to the emergency assistance program. The student associations shall review all grant applications and provide final approval of grant disbursements from the Office of Higher Education (OHE) to the campuses.

Section 5 repeals the July 1, 2023, sunset.