

American Legion Auxiliary
New Mexico Girls State
2015 Bill/Resolution



Committee: _____

Principal Author: Elisa Davidson

Bill No.:

Delegation: _____

Title of Bill: School Pantry Initiative Act

Section I. 27.2% or 136,070 children in New Mexico are at risk for hunger; this statistic ranks New Mexico second in the nation for childhood hunger. By creating school food pantries for low income students (following state guidelines for free and reduced lunches), students at risk of hunger will have access to a reliable food source which will reduce the rate of hunger among school age children and their families. Food pantries can be stocked mainly through donation and will not cause a strain on school budgets.

Be It Enacted By The American Legion Auxiliary New Mexico Girls State 2016 That:

Section II. Definitions—As used in the “School Pantry Initiative Act”

- A. Hunger: the uneasy or painful sensation caused by want of food; craving appetite. Also the exhausted condition caused by want of food; the want or scarcity of food in a country; a strong desire or craving. The related technical term is either malnutrition, or, if malnutrition is taken to refer to both undernutrition and overnutrition (obesity, overweight) as it increasingly is, undernutrition. Both malnutrition and undernutrition refer to the effects on people of not having enough food.
- B. Food Pantry: a non-profit, charitable organization that distributes food to those who have difficulty purchasing enough food to avoid hunger. Food banks usually operate on the "warehouse" model.
- C. Low Income: In accordance to state qualification guidelines for free or reduced fee lunches, low income students will be determined by the following model.

Household Size*	Maximum Income Level (Per Year)
1	\$21,775
2	\$29,471
3	\$37,167
4	\$44,863
5	\$52,559
6	\$60,255
7	\$67,951
8	\$75,647

*For households with more than eight people, add \$7,696 per additional person.

Section III. Penalty: A food pantry be established in all public elementary, middle, and high schools in New Mexico for use by low income students.

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Section IV. All laws, acts, provisions, or parts of laws contained in the Constitution of the State of New Mexico in conflict with any provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section V. The provisions of this act shall be effective immediately upon its passage and approval by the American Legion Auxiliary New Mexico Girls State Governor or its otherwise become a law for use beginning in the 2016-2017 school year.

