



Executive Action Sheet for Senate Legislation

Senate Bill 329-

Resolution 329-

I, Meghana Boojala, President of the Student Assembly of William & Mary do hereby:

Approve

Veto

The Student Assembly Senate Legislation:



Meghana Boojala

President, 329th Student Assembly (21-22)

DATE:

A Bill

To ensure the continued operations of the COVID-19 Food Delivery Program, and to create an Undersecretary of Food Security to serve as a representative of the Student Assembly's interest and commitment to combating campus food insecurity.

The Funding the Future Feeding Students in Isolation Act

An Act of the 329th Student Assembly of William & Mary,

Sponsored by Senator Zach Outzen (Law '22)

Supported by Rev. Max Blalock (Wesley Foundation and Campus Food Pantry), Abduel Hussein (Food for All), Student Assembly President Meghana Boojala ('22)

WHEREAS, the efficacy of current COVID-19 public health measures is dependent upon the ability of individuals with a positive COVID-19 test result to isolate for at least five days;

WHEREAS, the College of William & Mary, like the overwhelming majority of public institutions, mandates self-isolation in the event of a positive COVID-19 test result or in cases of presumed positive exposure;

WHEREAS, this requires students reporting positive COVID-19 test results to relocate to off-campus housing throughout the duration of their five day isolation;

WHEREAS, per the College's updated Quarantine & Isolation policy, students are only eligible to receive one night of financial assistance for the expenses associated with off-campus isolation¹;

WHEREAS, students are only eligible to receive meal deliveries from the dining hall if they are enrolled in a campus dining meal plan;

WHEREAS, students who are presumed positive for COVID-19 but are unable to obtain a COVID-19 test may be compelled to self-isolate;

¹ Amy Sebring, "Evacuation Plans, Q&I Housing Update, Mask Distribution," Email to Student Body (Jan. 25, 2022) ("On-campus residential students who live too far away to quarantine or isolate at home or who have extenuating circumstances that prevent that option may opt to stay in a local hotel room if needed. If your emergency evacuation plan requires use of a hotel room, W&M has identified a limited number of hotel rooms and has negotiated a reduced rate for our students. For students staying in one of those rooms, W&M will cover the first night's cost of lodging, but students will be responsible for covering all subsequent nights.")

WHEREAS, immunocompromised students in particular may need to self-isolate in more instances than the general student population;

WHEREAS, regardless of whether students receive one night of financial assistance, the costs associated with obtaining off-campus isolation housing in addition to feeding oneself can create an insurmountable financial burden for students complying with public health guidelines, particularly those already experiencing financial hardship or food insecurity;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Food Delivery Program, a partnership between Student Assembly, the Campus Food Pantry managed by the Wesley Foundation, and Food for All has been effective in delivering no-cost food and groceries to students requesting its services;

WHEREAS, the current Student Assembly representative tasked with implementing SB329-027 will be graduating after this session and thus, cannot continue to serve in this capacity;

WHEREAS, the current Student Assembly representative tasked with implementing SB329-027 with Wesley Foundation and Food for All has heard stakeholder input indicating a desire for continued partnerships with Student Assembly to combat campus food insecurity;

WHEREAS, it is impossible to predict what COVID-19 quarantine and isolation policies the College will implement next semester, and accordingly, it is impossible for the 329th Session to comprehensively account for the needs of the COVID-19 Delivery initiative until next semester;

WHEREAS, regardless of the quarantine and isolation policies set for next semester, it is almost certain that immunocompromised students will have to self-isolate at rates disproportionately higher than that of the general student population;

WHEREAS, despite the Student Assembly's intention to fund this program through the end of this session, the need to combat campus food insecurity will survive past this session, and the COVID-19 Food Delivery Program has had demonstrable success in combating campus food insecurity in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, [SB329-027: The Feeding Students in Isolation Act](#) requires a representative from Student Assembly to review program expenditures with the Wesley Foundation, to report on the results of this review to the Senate, and for the Senate to authorize the disbursement of the \$800 remaining from the initial appropriation of funds to Wesley Ministry;

WHEREAS, such review will be provided to the Senate on February 15th, 2022;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article I, Section IV, Subsection III, “The Senate shall have the power to provide for the creation of executive agencies, offices, and departments to carry out the Acts.”

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Student Assembly of William & Mary:

1. Reaffirms that the Student Assembly Senate authorizes the disbursement to the Wesley Foundation of the additional \$800 in funding appropriated by SB 329-027, so long as such funding has not already been disbursed.