AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL LUNCH DEBT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 10-215 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2020):

(a) Any local or regional board of education may establish and operate a school lunch program for public school children, may operate lunch services for its employees, may establish and operate a school breakfast program, as provided under federal laws governing said programs, or may establish and operate such other child feeding programs as it deems necessary. Charges for such lunches, breakfasts or other such feeding may be fixed by such boards and shall not exceed the cost of food, wages and other expenses directly incurred in providing such services. When such services are offered, a board shall provide free lunches, breakfasts or other such feeding to children whose economic needs require such action under the standards promulgated by said federal laws. Such board is authorized to purchase equipment and supplies that are necessary, to employ the necessary personnel, to utilize the services of volunteers and to receive and expend any funds and

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receive and use any equipment and supplies which may become available to carry out the provisions of this section. Any town board of education may vote to designate any volunteer organization within the town to provide a school lunch program, school breakfast program or other child feeding program in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(b) (1) No local or regional board of education shall publicly identify or stigmatize a child for any unpaid charges for school lunch, breakfast or other such feeding, including, but not limited to, delaying or refusing to serve such child lunch, breakfast or other such feeding, serving such child an alternative lunch, breakfast or other such feeding or otherwise discriminating against such child. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a local or regional board of education from communicating with the parent or legal guardian of a child for the purpose of collecting any unpaid charges for school lunch, breakfast or other such feeding.

(2) Each local or regional board of education may accept gifts, donations or grants from any public or private sources for the purpose of paying off any accrued school lunch debt.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

| Section 1 | July 1, 2020 | 10-215 |

Statement of Purpose:
To prohibit disciplinary action against public school children for unpaid school lunch charges and to allow any public or private parties to donate to payoff such debt.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]