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 Section 10-215 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2020):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 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) A local or regional board of education shall include in any policy
or procedure for the collection of unpaid charges for school lunch,
breakfast or other such feeding (1) a prohibition on publicly identifying
or shaming a child for any such unpaid charges, including, but not
limited to, delaying or refusing to serve a meal to such child, designating
a specific meal option for such child or otherwise discriminating against
such child, (2) the right for any child to purchase a meal, which meal
may exclude any a la cart items or be limited to one meal daily, and (3)
a process for communication with the parent or legal guardian of a child
for the purpose of collecting such unpaid charges, which
communication shall include, but not be limited to, (A) information
regarding local food pantries, (B) applications for the school district's
program for free or reduced priced meals and for the supplemental
nutrition assistance program administered by the Department of Social
Services, and (C) a link to the Internet web site maintained by the town
for such school district listing any community services available to the
residents of such town.

(c) 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 unpaid charges for school lunch, breakfast or other
such feeding.

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

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