

**Proposed Substitute
Bill No. 89**

LCO No. 2261

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL LUNCH DEBT.

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

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 Section 10-215 of the general statutes is repealed and the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

3 (a) Any local or regional board of education may establish and
4 operate a school lunch program for public school children, may operate
5 lunch services for its employees, may establish and operate a school
6 breakfast program, as provided under federal laws governing said
7 programs, or may establish and operate such other child feeding
8 programs as it deems necessary. Charges for such lunches, breakfasts or
9 other such feeding may be fixed by such boards and shall not exceed the
10 cost of food, wages and other expenses directly incurred in providing
11 such services. When such services are offered, a board shall provide free
12 lunches, breakfasts or other such feeding to children whose economic
13 needs require such action under the standards promulgated by said
14 federal laws. Such board is authorized to purchase equipment and
15 supplies that are necessary, to employ the necessary personnel, to utilize
16 the services of volunteers and to receive and expend any funds and
17 receive and use any equipment and supplies which may become
18 available to carry out the provisions of this section. Any town board of
19 education may vote to designate any volunteer organization within the

20 town to provide a school lunch program, school breakfast program or
21 other child feeding program in accordance with the provisions of this
22 section.

23 (b) A local or regional board of education shall include in any policy
24 or procedure for the collection of unpaid charges for school lunch,
25 breakfast or other such feeding (1) a prohibition on publicly identifying
26 or shaming a child for any such unpaid charges, including, but not
27 limited to, delaying or refusing to serve a meal to such child, designating
28 a specific meal option for such child or otherwise discriminating against
29 such child, (2) the right for any child to purchase a meal, which meal
30 may exclude any a la cart items or be limited to one meal daily, and (3)
31 a process for communication with the parent or legal guardian of a child
32 for the purpose of collecting such unpaid charges, which
33 communication shall include, but not be limited to, (A) information
34 regarding local food pantries, (B) applications for the school district's
35 program for free or reduced priced meals and for the supplemental
36 nutrition assistance program administered by the Department of Social
37 Services, and (C) a link to the Internet web site maintained by the town
38 for such school district listing any community services available to the
39 residents of such town.

40 (c) Each local or regional board of education may accept gifts,
41 donations or grants from any public or private sources for the purpose
42 of paying off any unpaid charges for school lunch, breakfast or other
43 such feeding.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	10-215
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