



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 32

January Session, 2021

Substitute Senate Bill No. 36

Senate, March 9, 2021

The Committee on Children reported through SEN. ANWAR of the 3rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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 Section 10-215 of the general statutes is repealed and the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, 2021*):

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) For the school year commencing July 1, 2021, and each school year
 24 thereafter, a local or regional board of education shall include in any
 25 policy or procedure for the collection of unpaid charges for school
 26 lunches, breakfasts or other such feeding (1) a prohibition on publicly
 27 identifying or shaming a child for any such unpaid charges, including,
 28 but not limited to, delaying or refusing to serve a meal to such child,
 29 designating a specific meal option for such child or otherwise taking any
 30 disciplinary action against such child; (2) a declaration of the right of
 31 any child to purchase a meal, which meal may exclude any a la carte
 32 items or be limited to one meal for any school lunch, breakfast or other
 33 such feeding; and (3) a procedure for communicating with the parent or
 34 legal guardian of a child for the purpose of collecting such unpaid
 35 charges, which communication shall include, but is not limited to, (A)
 36 information regarding local food pantries, (B) applications for the school
 37 district's program for free or reduced priced meals and for the
 38 supplemental nutrition assistance program administered by the
 39 Department of Social Services, and (C) a link to the Internet web site
 40 maintained by the town for such school district listing any community
 41 services available to the residents of such town.

42 (c) A local or regional board of education may accept gifts, donations
 43 or grants from any public or private sources for the purpose of paying
 44 off any unpaid charges for school lunches, breakfasts or other such
 45 feeding.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2021	10-215

KID *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which makes various procedural changes related to school lunches, is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 36*****AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL LUNCH DEBT.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires local or regional boards of education, starting in the 2021-2022 school year, to include the following in any policies or procedures for collecting unpaid school meal charges:

1. a prohibition on publicly identifying or shaming a child for any unpaid meal charges, including (a) delaying or refusing to serve a meal to the child, (b) designating a specific meal for the child, or (c) taking any disciplinary action against the child;
2. a declaration of a child's right to purchase one meal (which may exclude a la carte items) for any school breakfast, lunch, or other feeding; and
3. a procedure for communicating with parents or guardians about collecting a child's unpaid meal charges, including giving them (a) information on local food pantries, (b) applications for free or reduced priced meals and the Department of Social Services' supplemental nutrition assistance program, and (c) a link to the school district's website that lists any community services available to town residents.

The bill also allows local or regional boards of education to accept gifts, donations, or grants from any public or private source to pay off any unpaid meal charges.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 0 (02/25/2021)