

**Proposed Substitute
Bill No. 36**

LCO No. 3812

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 Section 10-215 of the general statutes is repealed and the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 for
31 any child to purchase a meal, which meal may exclude any a la cart
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	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-215