

2022 Education Legislation Update

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Acts to be discussed:

- ▶ Act 151, An act relating to universal school meals
- ▶ Act 152, An act relating to nondiscriminatory school branding
- ▶ Act 176, an act relating to the exploration, formation, and organization of union school districts and unified union school districts

Act 151

An act relating to universal school meals

- ▶ Creates a 1-year program that provides free breakfast and lunch to all public school students and students attending approved independent schools on public tuition
 - ▶ Requires all public schools to operate school breakfast and lunch programs under the National Child Nutrition Act and the School Lunch Act. There is no exemption from these programs in school year 2022-2023.
 - ▶ Allows only those approved independent schools that operate school breakfast and lunch programs under the National Child Nutrition Act and the School Lunch act to participate
 - ▶ Schools are required to maximize access to federal funds
- ▶ Requires the Agency of Education to report back on program implementation
- ▶ Requires the Joint Fiscal Office to report on possible revenue sources

Act 152

An act relating to nondiscriminatory school branding

- ▶ Creates a definition of school branding
- ▶ Requires the Secretary of Education to develop a model nondiscriminatory school branding policy that:
 - ▶ Prohibits *“school branding that directly or indirectly references or stereotypes the likeness, features, symbols, traditions, or other characteristics that are specific to either the race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity of any person or group of persons; or any person, group of persons, or organization associated with the repression of others.”*
 - ▶ Creates a complaint process
- ▶ School boards must adopt a policy at least as comprehensive as the model policy no later than January 1, 2023
- ▶ Schools may continue to use materials that feature school branding that is not in compliance with the policy if the materials were purchased before January 1, 2023, and the if the school selects new branding by May 1, 2023

Act 176

An act relating to the exploration, formation, and organization of union school districts and unified union school districts

- ▶ Updates Chapter 11 of Title 16, union school district governance
 - ▶ Creates a new process for towns to withdraw from a union school district
 - ▶ Allows for commingled ballots to be counted over a 24-hour period
- ▶ Creates specific processes to govern withdrawals underway at the time of passage
- ▶ Creates a temporary moratorium on the closure of schools in union school districts
- ▶ Requires the Agency of Education to issue two reports:
 - ▶ Union school district school building closures
 - ▶ Union school district withdrawals
- ▶ Creates a transition process for employment contracts during union school district withdrawals