

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Education to which was referred Senate Bill No. 100
3 entitled “An act relating to universal school breakfast and the creation of the
4 Task Force on Universal School Lunch” respectfully reports that it has
5 considered the same and recommends that the House propose to the Senate that
6 the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in
7 lieu thereof the following:

8 * * * Title * * *

9 Sec. 1. SHORT TITLE

10 This act may be cited as the “Universal School Meals Act.”

11 * * * Purpose * * *

12 Sec. 2. PURPOSE

13 The purpose of this act is to provide universal school breakfast and lunch
14 for all public school students at no cost to the students or their families with
15 funding provided to school districts.

16 * * * Statutory Changes * * *

17 Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. chapter 27, subchapter 2 is amended to read:

18 Subchapter 2. School Food Programs

19 § 1261a. DEFINITIONS

20 As used in this subchapter:

1 school breakfast and lunch to students at no charge under subdivision
2 1264(a)(1)(B) of this title for the cost of each meal actually provided in the
3 district during the previous quarter that qualifies as a paid breakfast and paid
4 lunch under the federal school breakfast and federal school lunch programs.
5 Reimbursement from State funds shall be available only to districts that
6 maximize access to federal funds for the cost of the school breakfast and lunch
7 program by participating in the Community Eligibility Provision or Provision 2
8 of these programs, or any other federal provision that in the opinion of the
9 Agency draws down the most possible federal funding for meals served in that
10 program.

11 (B) The reimbursement amount shall be a sum equal to the federal
12 reimbursement rate for a free school breakfast and lunch less the federal
13 reimbursement rate for a paid school breakfast and lunch, using rates identified
14 annually by the Agency of Education from payment levels established annually
15 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

16 * * *

17 § 1264. FOOD PROGRAM

18 (a)(1)(A) Each school board operating a public school shall cause to
19 operate within ~~the school district~~ each school in the school district a food
20 program that makes available a school lunch, as provided in the National
21 School Lunch Act as amended, and a school breakfast, as provided in the

1 National Child Nutrition Act as amended, to each attending student who
2 qualifies for those meals under these Acts every school day.

3 (B) In addition, each school board operating a public school shall
4 cause to operate within each school in the school district the same school
5 breakfast and school lunch program made available to students who qualify for
6 those meals under the National Child Nutrition Act and the National School
7 Lunch Act, as amended, for each attending student every school day at no
8 charge.

9 (C) In operating its school breakfast and lunch program, a school
10 district shall seek to achieve the highest level of student participation, which
11 may include any or all of the following:

12 (i) providing breakfast meals that can be picked up by students;

13 (ii) making breakfast available to students in classrooms after the
14 start of the school day; and

15 (iii) collaborating with the school's wellness community advisory
16 council, as established under subsection 136(e) of this title, in planning school
17 meals.

18 (D) A school district shall count time spent by students consuming
19 school meals during class as instructional time.

20 * * *

1 § 1265. ~~EXEMPTION; PUBLIC DISCUSSION~~

2 ~~(a) The school board of a public school district that wishes to be exempt~~
3 ~~from the provisions of section 1264 of this title may vote at a meeting warned~~
4 ~~and held for that purpose to exempt itself from the requirement to offer either~~
5 ~~the school lunch program or the school breakfast program, or both, for a period~~
6 ~~of one year.~~

7 ~~(b) If a public school is exempt from offering a breakfast or lunch program,~~
8 ~~its school board shall conduct a discussion annually on whether to continue the~~
9 ~~exemption. The pending discussion shall be included on the agenda at a~~
10 ~~regular or special school board meeting publicly noticed in accordance with~~
11 ~~1 V.S.A. § 312(c), and citizens shall be provided an opportunity to participate~~
12 ~~in the discussion. The school board shall send a copy of the notice to the~~
13 ~~Secretary and to the superintendent of the supervisory union at least ten days~~
14 ~~prior to the meeting. Following the discussion, the school board shall vote on~~
15 ~~whether to continue the exemption for one additional year.~~

16 ~~(c) On or before the first day of November prior to the date on which an~~
17 ~~exemption voted under this section is due to expire, the Secretary shall notify~~
18 ~~the boards of the affected school district and supervisory union in writing that~~
19 ~~the exemption will expire.~~

1 (3) three full-time, classified positions to provide financial and data
2 analysis for the Agency of Education.

3 (b) There is appropriated to the Agency of Education from the General
4 Fund for fiscal year 2023 the amount of \$500,000.00 for salaries, benefits, and
5 operating expenses for the positions created under subsection (a) of this
6 section.

7 Sec. 6. UNIVERSAL INCOME DECLARATION FORM

8 (a) A universal income declaration form is used by some other states and
9 school districts in Vermont with universal school meals programs to collect
10 household size and income information that was previously collected using the
11 Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application. A universal income declaration
12 form is used to collect income bracket information from all families, reducing
13 stigma and resulting in the collection of more accurate pupil eligibility counts
14 throughout a school district.

15 (b) On or before October 1, 2022, the Agency of Education shall convene a
16 working group that includes school staff and hunger and nutrition experts to
17 develop the universal income declaration form that shall be fully accessible to
18 all Vermont families both in paper form and electronically. The new form
19 shall be implemented statewide for the 2023–24 school year.

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4 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE