
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)