

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 122

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MACKEY.

0219H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 167, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to meals for students.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 167, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 167.203, to read as follows:

167.203. 1. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

(1) "Meal application", an application for free or reduced price meals through the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program;

(2) "School":

(a) A school district;

(b) A public school, including a charter school; or

(c) A private, religious, or parochial school that participates in the National School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program.

2. Regardless of whether a student has money to pay for a meal or owes money for earlier meals, a school:

(1) Shall provide a United States Department of Agriculture reimbursable meal, which is available to any other student providing funds to pay for such student's meal, to a student who requests one, unless the student's parent or guardian has specifically provided written permission to the school to withhold a meal; and

(2) Shall not require that a student throw away a meal after it has been served because of the student's inability to pay for the meal or because money is owed for earlier meals.

3. If a student owes money for five or more meals, a school shall:

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

- 19 **(1) Determine if the student is categorically eligible for free meals;**
20 **(2) Make at least two attempts, not including delivery of the meal application or**
21 **instructions included in a school enrollment packet, to reach the student's parent or**
22 **guardian and have the parent or guardian fill out a meal application; and**
23 **(3) Require a principal, assistant principal, counselor, or other professional holding**
24 **a student services certificate to contact the parent or guardian to offer assistance with a**
25 **meal application, determine if there are other issues within the household that have caused**
26 **the student to have insufficient funds to purchase a school meal, and offer any other**
27 **assistance that is appropriate.**
28 **4. A school shall not publicly identify or stigmatize a student who cannot pay for**
29 **a meal or who owes a meal debt.**
30 **5. A school shall direct communications about a student's meal debt to a parent or**
31 **guardian. A school shall not direct communications about a student's meal debt to the**
32 **student. Nothing in this subsection prohibits a school from sending a student home with**
33 **a letter addressed to the student's parent or guardian.**
34 **6. A school shall not require a parent or guardian to pay fees or costs from**
35 **collection agencies hired to collect meal debts.**

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