

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 908

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MACKEY.

0343H.02I

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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## AN ACT

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

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*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 the meal has been served because of the student's inability to pay for the meal or because money is owed for earlier meals.**

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.

- 18           **3. If a student owes money for five or more meals, a school shall:**  
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**  
24 **holding a student services certificate to contact the parent or guardian to offer**  
25 **assistance with a meal application, determine if there are other issues within the**  
26 **household that have caused the student to have insufficient funds to purchase a school**  
27 **meal, and offer any other 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**  
31 **or guardian. A school shall not direct communications about a student's meal debt to**  
32 **the student. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit a school from**  
33 **sending a student home with a letter addressed to the student's parent or guardian.**  
34           **6. A school shall not hire any collection agency to collect meal debts.**  
35           **7. A school shall not refuse to provide a transcript for a current or former**  
36 **student solely because such student owes a meal debt.**

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