HB 1633

1	A bill to be entitled				
2	An act relating to the Nutritional Options Pilot				
3	Program; creating the Nutritional Options Pilot				
4	Program within the Department of Agriculture and				
5	Consumer Services for a specified purpose; requiring				
6	the Commissioner of Agriculture to select school				
7	districts for participation in the pilot program,				
8	subject to legislative appropriation; requiring				
9	participating school districts to provide certain				
10	alternative meals and snacks to certain students upon				
11	the request of a student or his or her parent or				
12	guardian; authorizing such request to be made at the				
13	beginning of each semester; providing cost				
14	requirements for such meals and snacks; providing				
15	school district requirements; requiring the department				
16	to provide a report to the Governor and Legislature by				
17	a specified date; providing for the expiration of the				
18	pilot program; providing an effective date.				
19					
20	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:				
21					
22	Section 1. Section 595.4051, Florida Statutes, is created				
23	to read:				
24	<u>595.4051 Nutritional Options Pilot Program</u>				
25	(1) Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, the				
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26 Nutritional Options Pilot Program is created within the 27 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for a period of 28 2 school years. The purpose of the pilot program is to provide students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals or 29 30 snacks under the National School Lunch Program or any other program with a plant-based, kosher, and halal meal or snack at 31 32 the same cost to the student. 33 (2) (a) To participate in the program, a school district 34 may submit an application to the department in a format 35 prescribed by the department. 36 (b) The Commissioner of Agriculture shall select school 37 districts for participation in the program, subject to 38 legislative appropriation. 39 (c)1. Selected school districts shall receive funding to, 40 upon the request of a student or his or her parent or quardian, 41 provide students who are eligible for free or reduced-price 42 meals or snacks under the National School Lunch Program or any 43 other program with a plant-based, kosher, and halal meal or 44 snack at the same cost to the student. The request by a student 45 or his or her parent or guardian for an alternative meal or 46 snack may be made at the beginning of each semester. 47 2. Participating school districts must offer at least one 48 plant-based, kosher, and halal meal or snack for every two non-49 plant-based, non-kosher, or non-halal meals or snacks offered. 50 (d) Each participating school district must publish

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51	information about the pilot program and its meal and snack				
52	alternatives on its website.				
53	(3) The department shall provide a report to the Governor,				
54	the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of				
55	Representatives by August 1, 2026. The report must include:				
56	(a) The number of school districts that participated in				
57	7 <u>the program.</u>				
58	(b) The number of students within each participating				
59	9 school district who participated in the program.				
60	(c) The cost effectiveness of offering plant-based,				
61	1 kosher, and halal meals and snacks.				
62	2 (4) This section expires August 1, 2026.				
63	3 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.				
	Dage 2 of 2				
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