

**By** Senator Rodriguez

40-01445A-26

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to food and plastic waste reduction; creating s. 1013.121, F.S.; requiring the Department of Education to develop a specified pilot program in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; requiring that the pilot program be offered in a certain percentage of schools, beginning in a specified school year; specifying requirements for the pilot program; requiring each participating school district to submit a report to the Department of Education by a specified date; specifying requirements for the report; providing for the expiration of the pilot program; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 1013.121, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

## 1013.121 School food and plastic waste reduction.—

(1) The Department of Education shall develop a 3-year pilot program in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service's Farm to School program to be offered in up to 10 percent of schools in any school district in this state by the beginning of the 2027-2028 school year. The program must include all of the following:

(a) A partnership with a local nonprofit organization or food bank to redistribute edible cafeteria food and divert organic food waste to a composting program.

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30        (b) Installation of a sorting system for cafeteria waste,  
31        subject to legislative appropriation.

32        (c) Installation of a dishwashing system, with priority  
33        given to schools that previously operated a dishwashing system,  
34        subject to legislative appropriation.

35        (d) Elimination of single-use plastics by replacing them  
36        with stainless steel reusable serving ware.

37        (2) Each participating school district shall submit an  
38        annual report to the Department of Education by the end of each  
39        school year which includes all of the following:

40        (a) Total quantity of cafeteria waste diverted to landfill  
41        or incineration.

42        (b) Total quantity by weight of cafeteria food donated.

43        (c) Total quantity by weight of organic food waste diverted  
44        as animal feed or compost.

45        (d) Total quantity of single-use plastic items eliminated.

46        (e) Cost savings realized by the school district.

47        (f) Any barriers encountered and recommendations for the  
48        pilot program.

49        (3) The pilot program expires and this section is repealed  
50        July 1, 2030.

51        Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.