

By Senator Rouson

16-01513-26

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to K-12 school lunches and breakfasts; amending s. 1001.42, F.S.; requiring K-12 public schools to participate in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program; providing requirements for the provision of school lunches and breakfasts at such schools; authorizing school districts to collect payment for specified meals; prohibiting school districts from using third-party debt collectors; providing for the reimbursement of school breakfasts by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; providing a calculation for such reimbursement; authorizing the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to adopt rules; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (16) of section 1001.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.42 Powers and duties of district school board.—The district school board, acting as a board, shall exercise all powers and perform all duties listed below:

(16) SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM.—

(a) Assume such responsibilities and exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be assigned to it by law or as may be required by rules of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services or, as in the opinion of the district school board, are necessary to ensure school lunch services, consistent

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30 with needs of students; effective and efficient operation of the
31 program; and the proper articulation of the school lunch program
32 with other phases of education in the district.

33 (b) Each school district shall require each school within
34 the district to participate in the National School Lunch Program
35 and the School Breakfast Program. Each school shall make:

36 1. Lunch available pursuant to the National School Lunch
37 Program, regardless of whether a student has the money to pay
38 for the lunch or owes money for meals previously provided. A
39 school district may collect payment for meals provided pursuant
40 to this paragraph. However, a school district may not use a
41 third-party debt collector to collect such debt.

42 2. Breakfast available pursuant to the National School
43 Breakfast Program at no cost to the student unless the student's
44 parent has provided written notification to the school to
45 withhold such meal from the student. The Department of
46 Agriculture and Consumer Services shall reimburse each school
47 district for each school breakfast served to a student, with a
48 maximum of one breakfast per student per school day. The
49 reimbursement rate shall be the difference between the amount
50 paid by the United States Department of Agriculture and the free
51 rate set annually by the United States Secretary of Agriculture
52 for each school.

53 (c) The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services may
54 adopt rules to administer this subsection.

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