1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to school meals; providing a short
3	title; creating s. 1002.24, F.S.; providing
4	definitions; requiring schools to provide certain
5	information relating to free and reduced-price meals
6	in specified formats; requiring schools to complete an
7	application for free or reduced-price meals on a
8	student's behalf under certain circumstances;
9	providing an exemption to such requirements; requiring
10	a certain liaison to work with the Department of
11	Agriculture and Consumer Services to ensure certain
12	students receive meals; providing applicability;
13	providing duties and responsibilities of schools
14	relating to the provision of meals and contacting and
15	assisting a student's parent; prohibiting a school
16	from taking specified actions relating to a student
17	who cannot pay for a meal or who owes a meal debt;
18	prohibiting parents from paying specified fees or
19	costs relating to meal debts; authorizing the State
20	Board of Education to adopt rules; providing an
21	effective date.
22	
23	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
24	
25	Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Hunger-Free
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26	Students' Bill of Rights Act."
27	Section 2. Section 1002.24, Florida Statutes, is created
28	to read:
29	1002.24 Student access to school meals
30	(1) For purposes of this section the term:
31	(a) "Meal application" means an application for free or
32	reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program or
33	the School Breakfast Program.
34	(b) "School" means a public school or nonprofit private
35	school approved to participate in the National School Lunch
36	Program or the School Breakfast Program.
37	(2)(a) Each school must provide:
38	1. A free, printed meal application in every school
39	enrollment packet or, if the school chooses to use an electronic
40	meal application, an explanation of the electronic meal
41	application process and instructions for how a parent may
42	request a printed meal application at no cost.
43	2. A meal application and instructions in a language the
44	parent understands. If a parent cannot read or understand a meal
45	application, the school must offer assistance in completing the
46	application.
47	(b) If a school becomes aware that a student who has not
48	submitted a meal application is eligible for free or reduced-
49	price meals, the school shall complete and file a meal
50	application for the student pursuant Title 7, s. 245.6(d) of the

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51	Code of Federal Regulations.
52	(c) Paragraphs (a) and (b) do not apply to a school that
53	provides free meals to all students for an entire school year
54	and does not collect meal applications.
55	(3) A school district's liaison for homeless children and
56	youths, required under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance
57	Act, 42 U.S.C. s. 11432, shall coordinate with the Department of
58	Agriculture and Consumer Services to ensure that homeless
59	children and youths receive free and reduced-price meals. This
60	subsection does not apply to nonprofit private schools.
61	(4) Regardless of whether or not a student has money to
62	pay for a meal or owes money for earlier meals, a school shall:
63	(a) Provide a United State Department of Agriculture
64	reimbursable meal to a student who requests one, unless a parent
65	has specifically provided written permission for the school to
66	withhold a meal.
67	(b) If the student owes money for five or more meals:
68	1. Check the state list of students categorically eligible
69	for free meals to determine if the student is categorically
70	eligible.
71	2. Make at least two attempts, not including the meal
72	application or instructions included in the enrollment packet,
73	to reach the student's parent and to request the parent complete
74	a meal application.
75	3. Require the principal, an assistant principal, or a
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76	counselor to contact the parent to offer assistance with the
77	meal application, determine if there are other issues within the
78	household that have caused the student to have insufficient
79	funds to purchase a school meal, and offer any other appropriate
80	assistance.
81	(c) Direct all communications regarding a student's meal
82	debt to his or her parent. However, a school may send a letter
83	home with the student that is addressed to the parent.
84	(5) A school may not:
85	(a) Require a student to throw a meal away after it has
86	been served because of the student's inability to pay for the
87	meal or because money is owed for earlier meals.
88	(b) Publicly identify or stigmatize a student who cannot
89	pay for a meal or who owes a meal debt, including, but not
90	limited to, requiring a student to wear a wristband or hand
91	stamp.
92	(c) Require a student who cannot pay for a meal or who
93	owes a meal debt to do chores or other work to pay for meals.
94	This does not include chores or work required of all students
95	regardless of a meal debt.
96	(d) Require a parent to pay fees or costs from a
97	collection agency hired to collect a meal debt.
98	(6) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to
99	administer this section.
100	Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.
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