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2024

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
29 students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals or
30 snacks under the National School Lunch Program or any other
31 program with a plant-based, kosher, and halal meal or snack at
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 guardian,
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 the program.

58 (b) The number of students within each participating
59 school district who participated in the program.

60 (c) The cost effectiveness of offering plant-based,
61 kosher, and halal meals and snacks.

62 (4) This section expires August 1, 2026.

63 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.