

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to K-12 school lunches and breakfasts;
3 amending s. 1001.42, F.S.; requiring K-12 public
4 schools to participate in the National School Lunch
5 Program and the School Breakfast Program; providing
6 requirements for the provision of school lunches and
7 breakfasts at such schools; authorizing school
8 districts to collect payment for specified meals;
9 prohibiting school districts from using third-party
10 debt collectors; providing for the reimbursement of
11 school breakfasts by the Department of Agriculture and
12 Consumer Services; providing a calculation for such
13 reimbursement; authorizing the Department of
14 Agriculture and Consumer Services to adopt rules;
15 providing an effective date.

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

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

21 1001.42 Powers and duties of district school board.—The
22 district school board, acting as a board, shall exercise all
23 powers and perform all duties listed below:

24 (16) SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM.—

25 (a) Assume such responsibilities and exercise such powers

26 and perform such duties as may be assigned to it by law or as
27 may be required by rules of the Department of Agriculture and
28 Consumer Services or, as in the opinion of the district school
29 board, are necessary to ensure school lunch services, consistent
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 such 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

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51 rate set annually by the United States Secretary of Agriculture
52 for each school.

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

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