



(f)(1) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and each school year thereafter, a public school student who is not a qualifying student under this section and does not receive a free breakfast through any local, state, or federal program shall be provided one (1) breakfast at no cost during each school day upon his or her request without consideration of his or her eligibility for a federally funded free or reduced-price meal.

(2)(A) If necessary to comply with the requirements of subdivision (f)(1) of this section, the department shall provide funds that have been disbursed to the department from the United States Government for purposes of funding child nutrition programs to each public school to cover the cost of providing one (1) breakfast at no cost during each school day to each public school student who is not a qualifying student under this section.

(B) If federal funds appropriated to the department for a child nutrition program are insufficient to cover the cost of providing one (1) breakfast at no cost during each school day to each public school student who is not a qualifying student, the department shall use funds as authorized by law to cover the cost of providing one (1) breakfast at no cost during each school day to each public school student who is not a qualifying student.

(C) The cost of providing one (1) breakfast shall not exceed the rate of reimbursement to public schools established by the National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1751 et seq., and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. § 1771 et seq., for a free school breakfast.

(g) The department may promulgate rules to implement this section."

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 19-5-202(b)(2)(B)(v), concerning distributions from the net general revenue in the General Revenue Fund Account, is amended to read as follows:

(v)(a) Next, the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration shall certify the amount distributed to the General Revenue Fund Account from the sales tax and the special privilege tax on medical marijuana under § 17(c) of the Arkansas Medical Marijuana Amendment of 2016, Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 98, for the month.

(b) The Treasurer of State shall then deduct an amount equal to the amount certified under subdivision (b)(2)(B)(v)(a) of

~~this section from the General Revenue Fund Account and transfer the amount to the Restricted Reserve Fund to be used to address food insecurity and health needs~~ Food Insecurity Fund; and

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 19, Chapter 5, Subchapter 12, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

19-5-1287. Food Insecurity Fund.

(a) There is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, the Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a miscellaneous fund to be known as the "Food Insecurity Fund".

(b) The Food Insecurity Fund shall consist of:

(1) General Revenues authorized by law;

(2) Funds transferred from the General Revenue Fund Account as set out in § 19-5-202;

(3) Moneys obtained from private grants or other sources that are designated to be credited to the Food Insecurity Fund; and

(4) Any other funds authorized or provided by law.

(c)(1) By July 31 each fiscal year:

(A) The Department of Education shall submit a certification to the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State of the amount expensed by the Department of Education the prior fiscal year to comply with § 6-18-722(b) to eliminate a charge to students for a reduced-price copayment for a school breakfast or a school lunch, which shall be reviewed by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State; and

(B) The Department of Human Services shall submit a certification to the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State of the estimated amount required to fund the state matching funds requirement for the federal Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program for Children, commonly known as "Summer EBT", for the current fiscal year, which shall be reviewed by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

(2) After reviewing the certifications submitted under subdivision (c)(1) of this section, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State may deny, modify, or approve the certifications based on the:

(A) Estimated amount of funding needed and available;

(B) Purpose; and

(C) Preferred spending priority.

(3) Based on the certifications from the Department of Education and the Department of Human Services in subdivision (c)(1) of this section, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall instruct the Treasurer of State to transfer those amounts on a pro rata basis to the fund or fund accounts designated by the Secretary of the Department of Education and the Secretary of the Department of Human Services.

(d) Any unexpended balance of moneys in the fund accounts designated by the Department of Education and the Department of Human Services to be allocated for the purposes under subsection (c) of this section that are remaining at the end of each fiscal year shall be designated and retained for the purposes under subsection (c) of this section for the following fiscal year, and certifications required under subdivision (c)(1) of this section shall be adjusted to reflect the remaining balances.

(e) After making the transfers under subdivision (c)(3) of this section, the Treasurer of State shall then transfer the remainder of the balance of the Food Insecurity Fund to the fund account designated by the Department of Education to be used by the Department of Education to comply with § 6-18-722(f).

(f) Any unexpended balance of moneys in the fund account designated by the Department of Education allocated for the purposes under subdivision (e) of this section that are remaining at the end of each fiscal year shall be designated and retained for the purposes outlined under subdivision (e) of this section for the following fiscal year.

**SECTION 4. DO NOT CODIFY. Funding transfer.**

On June 30, 2025, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall transfer on his or her books and those of the Treasurer of State and the Auditor of the State the fund balance remaining in the Food Insecurity and Health Needs Set-Aside of the Restricted Reserve Fund to the Food Insecurity Fund.

**SECTION 5. EMERGENCY CLAUSE.** It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that for planning purposes, public school districts need to know what the legal expectations are with respect to student meals; that before the upcoming school year and fiscal year, it is necessary to capture the correct funding in order to fund this act; and that this act is immediately necessary to give the Department of Finance and

Administration, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Department of Human Services ample time to implement this act and create the funds required by this act. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

/s/J. Dismang

**APPROVED: 2/20/25**