

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
92nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2019

As Engrossed: H2/19/19
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1356

By: Representative A. Davis

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE HUNGER-FREE STUDENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT; TO REQUIRE A PUBLIC SCHOOL TO PROVIDE A MEAL OR SNACK TO A STUDENT; TO ALLOW A SCHOOL TO ATTEMPT TO COLLECT MONEY OWED FOR A STUDENT'S SCHOOL MEAL OR SNACK; TO PROHIBIT A SCHOOL FROM STIGMATIZING A STUDENT WHO IS UNABLE TO PAY FOR A MEAL OR SNACK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE HUNGER-FREE STUDENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS; TO REQUIRE A SCHOOL TO PROVIDE A MEAL OR SNACK; TO ALLOW A SCHOOL TO COLLECT MONEY OWED; AND TO PROHIBIT A SCHOOL FROM STIGMATIZING A STUDENT UNABLE TO PAY FOR A MEAL.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 7, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-18-714. Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act.

(a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act".

(b) As used in this section, "school" means a tax-supported kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) public school that participates in the United States Department of Agriculture National School Lunch Program.

(c) A school shall not:



(1) Provide a student requesting a meal or snack under this section a meal or snack that is different from the meal or snack being provided to other students in the school; or

(2) Prevent a student from accessing the school's meal or snack services.

(d) If a student owes money for a meal or snack that is in excess of the amount charged a student for five (5) lunches, or another amount as determined by the student's school district, a school may contact the parent or guardian of the student to:

(1) Attempt collection of the owed money; and

(2) Request that the parent or guardian apply for meal benefits in a federal or state child nutrition program.

(e) If a student is unable to pay for a meal or snack or owes money for a meal or snack, a school shall not:

(1) Require the student to wear a wristband;

(2) Give the student a hand stamp;

(3) Require the student to dispose of a meal or snack after the student is served the meal or snack;

(4) Require the student to sit in a location separate from other students;

(5) Publicly make known the name of the student; or

(6) Perform any other action that may stigmatize the student.

(f)(1) The Department of Education Child Nutrition Unit shall:

(A) Implement a system for reviewing the local practices of public school district food service programs to determine the support needed by public school districts; and

(B) Provide model policies that public school districts may adopt.

(2) The system of review established under subdivision (f)(1)(A) of this section shall address areas regarding without limitation:

(A) Ideas, innovations, and best practices for providing meals to vulnerable populations that contribute to the health and well-being of public school students;

(B) Resources and strategies for improving the nutritional quality and appeal of meals;

(C) Tips for implementing best practices;

(D) Methods for informing parents and legal guardians of a public school district's meal charge policies; and

(E) Plans for recovering costs for meal charges.

/s/A. Davis