



March 7, 2020

SUMMARY OF BILL: Creates the Student Healthy Outcomes Act. Prohibits a local education agency (LEA) from withholding student records or diplomas for a meal debt. Requires schools to provide a reimbursable meal to each student who requests one. Prohibits a school from requiring a student to throw away a meal after the meal has been served to the student because of the student's inability to pay for the meal, or because the student has accumulated a meal debt. Prohibits schools from stigmatizing students for non-payment of meals. Prohibits schools from holding students personally responsible for meal debts. Requires schools to contact parents of students who owe money on five or more meals during a school year. Establishes that a school is subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$50 for any violation of this act. Requires any fine assessed against a school pursuant to this section to be credited toward a student's meal debt. Requires the fine to be credited to the student's account if the fine exceeds the amount of the student's meal debt.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Other Fiscal Impact – To the extent schools recover fewer outstanding debts for student meals as a result of this legislation, there would be additional forgone local revenue of unknown amounts for schools. Otherwise, the fiscal impact of the legislation is considered not significant.

Assumptions:

- No significant impact to state government operations.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-2302 each school is required to have an established lunch program.
- LEAs and their schools will be able to provide a reimbursable meal in accordance with the provisions of this legislation during the normal course of business; therefore any fiscal impact is estimated to be not significant.
- The legislation requires schools to contact parents of students that owe money for five or more unpaid meals, which may be an effective means in recovering funds for unpaid meals; however, it prohibits schools from withholding important documents from students that owe money for meals such as transcripts and diplomas.
- To the extent schools recover fewer outstanding debts for unpaid meals, there will be an increase in forgone local revenue; however, due to unknown factors such as the number of students affected, the extent of unpaid meals, the extent of uncollected funds for meals under current law and under the provisions of this legislation, the extent and timing of any such impacts cannot be determined.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/alh