



State Fiscal Note for Bill Number: 2020-H-7313

Date of State Budget Office Approval:

Date Requested: Monday, January 27, 2020

Date Due: Thursday, February 6, 2020

Impact on Expenditures

FY 2020	N/A
FY 2021	Indeterminate
FY 2022	Indeterminate

Impact on Revenues

FY 2020	N/A
FY 2021	N/A
FY 2022	N/A

Explanation by State Budget Office:

This bill establishes RIGL Section 16-8-10.2, entitled “Treatment of Students Receiving School Meals Assistance.” It asserts that no students shall be denied a “reimbursable meal” of a student’s choice because that student’s parent/guardian has unpaid meal fees. Further, no disciplinary action can be taken against a student to deny/delay nutritionally adequate meals or to collect unpaid school meal fees. Finally, this bill requires schools to exhaust all options to certify any student with lunch debt as eligible for free and reduced price lunch.

Comments on Sources of Funds:

As written, this bill places the financial responsibility of providing reimbursable meals and collecting the debt owed by providing reimbursable meals on the Local Education Authority (LEA or district) of attendance.

Summary of Facts and Assumptions:

If this bill leads to additional students being certified as a recipient of free and reduced lunch, this will lead to an increase in Permanent Foundation Education Aid, financed using general revenues and allocated to the Education Aid program of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE).

1] This legislation removes the ability of an LEA to deny a reimbursable meal of a students choosing as a mechanism to curb student lunch debt. Additionally, LEAs or their meal providers cannot discipline students due to unpaid meal fees. Currently, there is no data available pertaining to individual LEA unpaid meal debt, nor the effectiveness of collecting such debt through forcing alternative meals to students who have lunch debt, a practice dubbed “lunch shaming.” Schools can still attempt to collect unpaid school meal fees from a student’s parent or guardian. With these assumptions, the fiscal impact for each LEA is indeterminate.

2] This legislation requires LEAs to exhaust all options to certify any student with lunch debt as eligible for free and reduced price lunch. This provision may lead to more students being assessed the “Student Success Factor” component of the funding formula directly related to school lunch designation. For each additional student identified as a recipient of free and reduced price lunch, LEAs would receive a portion of the Student Success Factor, \$4,124 in FY 2021, based on an LEAs “State Share Ration,” a proxy of each municipality’s fiscal capacity.

3] This legislation would be effective upon passage; thus, it is assumed to only apply to all school years beginning on or after July 1, 2020.

Prepared by:

Storm Lawrence / 4012221153 / storm.lawrence@budget.ri.gov

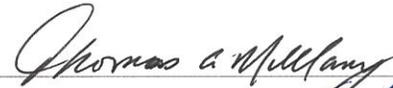
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*Summary of Fiscal
Impact:*

As stated above, this bill will impact school years beginning after July 1, 2020, thus FY 2020 will not be affected. For FY 2021 and FY 2022, because school lunch debt data is unavailable, the fiscal impact of this bill cannot be determined.

Budget Office Signature:



Fiscal Advisor Signature:

