

House File 341 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 341

BY SHIPLEY

A BILL FOR

1 An Act prohibiting the use of margarine and hydrogenated
2 vegetable oil in school meals.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 283A.1, subsection 1, Code 2023, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. "*Nutritionally adequate meal*" means a lunch or breakfast
4 which meets the guidelines established by the department of
5 education. Such guidelines shall prohibit the use of margarine
6 or hydrogenated vegetable oil as part of a nutritionally
7 adequate meal. The guidelines shall instead provide for the
8 use of butter, provided that coconut oil, avocado oil, or olive
9 oil may be substituted for butter when necessary to accommodate
10 a student's dietary restrictions.

11 Sec. 2. STUDENT CONSUMPTION OF MARGARINE AND HYDROGENATED
12 VEGETABLE OIL — LEGISLATIVE INTENT. The general assembly
13 finds that the proliferation of margarine and hydrogenated
14 vegetable oil is hindering the growth and development of
15 healthy children. As such, the general assembly further finds
16 that schools should serve or prepare food with butter as a part
17 of a nutritionally adequate meal when appropriate and coconut
18 oil, avocado oil, or olive oil when necessary to accommodate a
19 student's dietary restrictions.

20 EXPLANATION

21 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
22 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

23 This bill prohibits the serving of margarine and
24 hydrogenated vegetable oil at schools.

25 Currently, school breakfast and lunch programs may only
26 serve foods that are deemed a nutritionally adequate meal by
27 department of education (DE) guidelines. The bill prohibits DE
28 guidelines from determining that any food containing margarine
29 or hydrogenated vegetable oil is a nutritionally adequate meal.
30 The bill requires the guidelines to instead provide for the use
31 of butter, provided that coconut oil, avocado oil, or olive oil
32 may be substituted for butter when necessary to accommodate a
33 student's dietary restrictions.

34 The bill states findings by the general assembly relating to
35 children's consumption of margarine and hydrogenated vegetable

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1 oil.