

House File 363 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 363

BY ISENHART

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to free school meals for children attending a
2 public or accredited nonpublic primary or secondary school,
3 and establishing a standing appropriation.

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

1 Section 1. Section 267A.1, subsection 2, Code 2023, is
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *e.* Provide for the healthy development of
4 this state's students by supplying state schools with locally
5 grown and processed, nutritionally adequate meals in accordance
6 with guidelines established by the department of education
7 pursuant to chapter 283A.

8 Sec. 2. Section 267A.3, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code
9 2023, is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

10 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (8) A representative of an organization
11 with the primary purpose of promoting school nutrition in this
12 state.

13 Sec. 3. Section 267A.3, subsection 2, Code 2023, is amended
14 by adding the following new paragraph:

15 NEW PARAGRAPH. *c.* The director of the department of
16 education or the director's designee.

17 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. **283A.12 School meal appropriation.**

18 1. There is appropriated annually from the general fund of
19 the state to the department of education an amount determined
20 by the department necessary to provide breakfast and lunch to
21 each student of a public school, including a charter school,
22 or of an accredited nonpublic school whose family chooses to
23 receive such meals for the student.

24 2. Moneys appropriated pursuant to this section shall
25 be sufficient to procure food grown and processed in this
26 state, or food grown and processed within thirty miles of this
27 state for schools and accredited nonpublic schools in a county
28 bordering another state, for the purpose of achieving goals of
29 the local food and farm program established in section 267A.1.

30 3. Moneys appropriated pursuant to this section supplement
31 funds appropriated under the federal National School Lunch Act
32 and the federal Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. §1751
33 - 1785.

34 4. Any funds appropriated under this section that have not
35 been used or encumbered by June 30 of each year shall revert

1 back to the general fund of the state pursuant to section 8.33.

2 EXPLANATION

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

5 This bill relates to free school meals to children attending
6 a public or accredited nonpublic primary or secondary school,
7 and establishes a standing appropriation.

8 The bill adds providing for the healthy development of
9 Iowa's students by supplying state schools with locally grown
10 and processed, nutritionally adequate meals in accordance with
11 guidelines established by the department of education (DE) as a
12 goal of the local food and farm program.

13 The bill adds the director of the DE or the director's
14 designee as a voting member of the local food and farm
15 program council. The bill also adds a representative of an
16 organization with the primary purpose of promoting school
17 nutrition in Iowa as a voting member of the local food and farm
18 program council that the secretary of agriculture will appoint.

19 Code chapter 283A (school meal programs) governs the
20 administration of school meal programs and the allocation of
21 moneys received for school meals. Under Code chapter 283A, the
22 director of the DE may enter into agreements with any agency
23 of the federal government, with any school board, or with any
24 other agency or person, adopt rules, employ personnel, and take
25 other action as the director may deem necessary to provide
26 for the establishment, maintenance, operation, and expansion
27 of any school breakfast or lunch program, and to direct the
28 disbursement of federal and state funds, in accordance with any
29 applicable provisions of federal or state law. Code chapter
30 283A also allows the authorities of a nonpublic school to opt
31 out of school breakfast and lunch programs.

32 The bill establishes a standing appropriation in an amount
33 determined by the DE by rule to supplement federal funds to
34 allow free school breakfast and lunch to each student of a
35 public school, including a charter school, or accredited

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1 nonpublic school whose family chooses to receive such meals for
2 the student. Moneys appropriated must be sufficient to procure
3 food grown and processed in Iowa, or grown and processed
4 within 30 miles of Iowa for schools and accredited nonpublic
5 schools in a county bordering another state, for the purpose
6 of achieving goals of the local food and farm program. Any
7 such funds appropriated for this purpose that are not used or
8 encumbered by June 30 of each year shall revert back to the
9 general fund of the state.