

**Senate File 303 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 303

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**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to free school breakfast and lunch for students  
2 at public schools and making an appropriation.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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

3 2. A school district shall operate or provide for the  
4 operation of breakfast and lunch programs at all attendance  
5 centers in the district. ~~A school district may operate or~~  
6 ~~provide for the operation of school breakfast programs at all~~  
7 ~~attendance centers in the district, or provide access to a~~  
8 ~~school breakfast program at an alternative site to students~~  
9 ~~who wish to participate in a school breakfast program.~~ The  
10 programs shall provide students with nutritionally adequate  
11 meals and shall be operated in compliance with the rules of  
12 the state board of education and pertinent federal law and  
13 regulation. The school breakfast and lunch program shall  
14 be provided for all students in each district who attend  
15 public school four or more hours each school day and wish to  
16 participate in a school breakfast and lunch program. School  
17 districts may provide school breakfast and lunch programs for  
18 other students.

19 Sec. 2. Section 283A.2, Code 2023, is amended by adding the  
20 following new subsections:

21 NEW SUBSECTION. 2A. Each school shall provide each student  
22 with one breakfast and one lunch each school day at no cost to  
23 the student if the student elects to receive such meals.

24 NEW SUBSECTION. 4. Each year there is appropriated from  
25 the general fund of the state to the department of education an  
26 amount necessary to provide breakfast and lunch to each student  
27 at no cost to the student. Such funds shall be used only to pay  
28 the difference between the cost of meals and federal funding  
29 received to pay for meals.

30 EXPLANATION

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

33 This bill relates to free school breakfast and lunch for  
34 students at public schools.

35 Code chapter 283A requires public schools to operate or

1 provide for the operation of a lunch program, and allows public  
2 schools to operate or provide for the operation of a breakfast  
3 program or to provide access to a breakfast program at an  
4 alternative site. The bill requires public schools, including  
5 charter schools, to provide each student with one breakfast and  
6 one lunch at the student's attendance center at no cost to the  
7 student if the student elects to receive such meals.

8 The bill creates a standing appropriation from the general  
9 fund of the state to the department of education in an amount  
10 necessary to provide breakfast and lunch to each student at  
11 no cost to the student. Such funds may only be used to pay  
12 the difference between the cost of meals and federal funding  
13 received to pay for meals.

14 The bill makes conforming changes to Code section 283A.2,  
15 subsection 2.