

**House File 212 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 212  
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 5)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to meals, food, and beverages provided to  
2 students enrolled in school districts, charter schools,  
3 and innovation zone schools, and including applicability  
4 provisions.

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

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, Code 2025, is  
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *0t.* Be subject to and comply with the  
4 requirements of section 283A.6 relating to the preparation of  
5 meals provided to students, and prohibited ingredients in meals  
6 provided to students, in the same manner as a school district, if  
7 the charter school provides a breakfast or lunch program.

8 Sec. 2. Section 256F.4, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended  
9 by adding the following new paragraph:

10 NEW PARAGRAPH. *r.* Be subject to and comply with the  
11 requirements of section 283A.6 relating to the preparation of  
12 meals provided to students, and prohibited ingredients in meals  
13 provided to students, in the same manner as a school district, if  
14 the charter school or innovation zone school provides a breakfast  
15 or lunch program.

16 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. **283A.6 School district breakfast and**  
17 **lunch programs — food and beverages provided to students —**  
18 **prohibited ingredients.**

19 1. As used in this section:

20 *a.* "Margarine" means any food product that is a substitute  
21 for butter and that is made with fats or oils that are not  
22 natural fats and oils, including products labeled as margarine,  
23 spread, or oleomargarine.

24 *b.* "Natural fats and oils" means butter, beef tallow, lard,  
25 coconut oil, avocado oil, and olive oil.

26 2. When necessary, a school district shall use natural fats  
27 and oils to prepare meals to be served to students as part  
28 of the school district's breakfast or lunch program. A school  
29 district shall not use margarine to prepare a meal to be served  
30 to students as part of the school district's breakfast or lunch  
31 program.

32 3. A school district shall not serve a meal to students as  
33 part of the school district's breakfast or lunch program that  
34 contains any of the following ingredients:

35 *a.* Blue dye 1.



1 lunch program. The bill defines "margarine" as any food product  
2 that is a substitute for butter and that is made with fats or  
3 oils that are not natural fats and oils. The bill defines  
4 "natural fats and oils" as butter, beef tallow, lard, coconut  
5 oil, avocado oil, and olive oil.

6 The bill prohibits school districts, charter schools, and  
7 innovation zone schools from serving meals to students as part  
8 of the school's breakfast or lunch program that contain blue  
9 dye 1, blue dye 2, brominated vegetable oil, green dye 3,  
10 margarine, potassium bromate, propylparaben, red dye 3, red dye  
11 40, yellow dye 5, or yellow dye 6. The bill also prohibits  
12 schools from permitting the sale of any beverages that contain  
13 such ingredients during a school function or school-sponsored  
14 activity unless the sale does not take place on school district  
15 property or unless the sale takes place at least 30 minutes after  
16 the end of the school day.

17 The bill applies to school years beginning on or after July 1,  
18 2027.