

[Second Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 3360**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**216th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED JUNE 9, 2014

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**SYNOPSIS**

Requires each school district with middle school or high school to establish food services advisory committee to consider menu options that reflect students' cultural, traditional, and dietary preferences.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As amended by the General Assembly on September 29, 2014.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/17/2015)

1 AN ACT concerning school breakfast and lunch menus and  
 2 supplementing chapter 33 of Title 18A of the New Jersey  
 3 Statutes.

4  
 5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
 6 *of New Jersey:*

7  
 8 1. a. The <sup>1</sup>**principal** chief school administrator or a  
 9 designee<sup>1</sup> of each <sup>1</sup>**public** school district that includes a<sup>1</sup> middle  
 10 school <sup>1</sup>**and** or<sup>1</sup> high school<sup>1</sup>, where a need is determined  
 11 pursuant to subsection f. of this section,<sup>1</sup> shall establish a food  
 12 services advisory committee to consider and recommend school  
 13 breakfast and lunch menu options that better reflect the cultural<sup>1</sup>,  
 14 traditional, and dietary<sup>1</sup> food preferences of the student body  
 15 including, but not limited to, vegetarian and vegan meal options<sup>1</sup>.  
 16 The committee shall serve in an advisory capacity and make  
 17 recommendations to <sup>1</sup>**the principal** school principals, the chief  
 18 school administrator or a designee, and the food services provider<sup>1</sup>.

19 b. Members of the committee shall be selected by the  
 20 <sup>1</sup>**principal** chief school administrator or a designee<sup>1</sup> and shall  
 21 include <sup>1</sup>a principal or a designee,<sup>1</sup> a food services employee <sup>1</sup>of the  
 22 district or contractor as applicable<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>**a** the chief<sup>1</sup> school  
 23 administrator <sup>1</sup>or a designee<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>**a** school nurse, and<sup>1</sup> at least<sup>1</sup> four  
 24 students enrolled in the school <sup>1</sup>district's middle schools or high  
 25 schools, and one or more parents of those students. A student who  
 26 expresses an interest in participating on the committee shall be  
 27 considered for membership<sup>1</sup>. <sup>2</sup>In the event that a school nurse  
 28 expresses an interest in participating on the committee, the chief  
 29 school administrator or a designee shall appoint a school nurse to  
 30 the committee.<sup>2</sup>

31 c. The committee shall convene <sup>1</sup>**a minimum of four** at least  
 32 three<sup>1</sup> times during each school year with <sup>1</sup>**no meeting being**  
 33 convened less than two months after the preceding meeting at least  
 34 one meeting in each half of the school year<sup>1</sup> .

35 d. In making its recommendations for new menu options that  
 36 better reflect the cultural<sup>1</sup>, traditional, and dietary<sup>1</sup> food preferences  
 37 of the student body, the committee shall also consider: available  
 38 funding for the school breakfast and school lunch program,  
 39 equipment, and other issues that may serve to limit food choices;  
 40 the <sup>1</sup>**qualifications of the school's food services employees** ability  
 41 of the food services provider and its employees to comply with the

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AED committee amendments adopted September 11, 2014.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly floor amendments adopted September 29, 2014.

1 recommendations<sup>1</sup>; and the nutritional value of the new menu  
2 options.

3 e. Any new menu options offered by the school 'district' shall  
4 meet nutritional standards in the National School Lunch and School  
5 Breakfast Programs.

6 <sup>1</sup>f. To determine the need for a food services advisory  
7 committee in a particular school district, a district shall provide a  
8 written form to each student enrolled in the district's middle schools  
9 and high schools to inquire on whether the student has an unmet  
10 cultural, traditional, or dietary food preference. At a minimum the  
11 form shall include an area for the student's name and contact  
12 information, an area for the student to describe any unmet food  
13 preference requested to be addressed, a question on whether the  
14 student would like vegetarian or vegan meal options offered in  
15 addition to the current meal options, and an area where the student  
16 may request to participate on the food services advisory committee.  
17 The form shall also be made available to students and parents on the  
18 school district's Internet website.

19 g. The requirements of this section may be suspended for one  
20 school year at the discretion of the chief school administrator in the  
21 event that:

22 (1) no student indicates an unmet food preference on the written  
23 or Internet form; or

24 (2) the response of students on the written or Internet form is de  
25 minimis in nature and the food preferences of those students can be  
26 met to the satisfaction of the students without a food services  
27 advisory committee.

28 h. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection g. of this  
29 section to the contrary, if a student expresses an interest in  
30 vegetarian or vegan menu items, the school district shall make all  
31 reasonable efforts to expand its school breakfast and school lunch  
32 menus to include hot and cold vegetarian and vegan meal options.

33 i. In the event that on the effective date of this section, a  
34 school district has a method for resolving student grievances that  
35 includes student representation, the school district may substitute  
36 that body in the place of a food services advisory committee and  
37 that body shall fulfill the requirements established pursuant to this  
38 section. If at any time that body is no longer functional, the school  
39 district shall comply with the requirements of this section within 60  
40 days.<sup>1</sup>

41

42 2. This act shall take effect <sup>1</sup>[immediately] in the first full  
43 school year following the date of enactment<sup>1</sup>.