

SENATE, No. 599

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Clarifies that school district is not required to restrict access to school meals if school meal bill is in arrears.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning school meals and amending P.L.2015, c.15.

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

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6 1. Section 1 of P.L.2015, c.15 (C.18A:33-21) is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 1. In the event that a school district determines that a student's
9 school breakfast or school lunch bill is in arrears, the district shall
10 contact the student's parent or guardian to provide notice of the
11 arrearage and shall provide the parent or guardian with a period of
12 10 school days to pay the amount due. If the student's parent or
13 guardian has not made full payment by the end of the 10 school
14 days, then the district shall again contact the student's parent or
15 guardian to provide notice that school breakfast or school lunch, as
16 applicable, shall not be served to the student beginning one week
17 from the date of the second notice unless payment is made in full.

18 A school district shall report at least biannually to the
19 Department of Agriculture the number of students who are denied
20 school breakfast or school lunch pursuant to this section.

21 Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a school
22 district to deny or restrict access to school breakfast or school lunch
23 to a student whose school breakfast or school lunch bill is in
24 arrears.

25 (cf: P.L.2018, c.27, s.1)

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27 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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32 In February of 2015, the Legislature enacted P.L.2015, c.15
33 (C.18A:33-21) to establish a process that a school district must
34 follow prior to denying a school breakfast or a school lunch to a
35 student due to the fact that the student's school breakfast or school
36 lunch bill was in arrears. The purpose of the law was to ensure that
37 a student was not suddenly denied a school breakfast or school
38 lunch, and that the student's parent or guardian received proper
39 notice of the arrearage and an adequate opportunity to address the
40 arrearage prior to the school district making a determination to deny
41 the student school meals. The purpose of this bill is to clarify that
42 nothing in this section of law requires a school district to deny
43 school breakfast or school lunch to a student whose bill is in
44 arrears, but rather to provide adequate notice and opportunity to the
45 student's parent or guardian if the district determines to take such
46 an action.

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.