



**SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**  
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*This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.*

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**Bill Number:** H. 3319    Introduced on January 12, 2021  
**Author:** King  
**Subject:** Free and Reduced Lunch Students  
**Requestor:** House Education and Public Works  
**RFA Analyst(s):** Wren  
**Impact Date:** March 15, 2021

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### **Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill requires students who are eligible for free and reduced meal benefits to receive the same federally reimbursable meal as students not eligible for free and reduced meals. The bill also requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to develop and provide a model policy and template regarding the collection of school meal debt to each school district.

The expenditure impact of this bill on SDE and the local school districts is pending, contingent upon a response from the agency.

This bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on the state agency schools since the agencies indicate that student meals are not connected to federal funding, students are not charged for meals, or meals are included in the enrollment process.

### **Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

#### **Introduced on January 12, 2021**

##### **State Expenditure**

This bill requires students who are eligible for free and reduced meal benefits to receive the same federally reimbursable meal as students not eligible for free and reduced meals as prescribed in 7 C.F.R. Part 215 and the Special Milk Program. Federally reimbursable meals must be offered even if the student owes money for previous meals. Schools that offer food and beverages separately from federally reimbursable meals may not allow students to accrue a balance when purchasing items and may only accept cash or allow funds to be electronically drawn from a prepaid balance. Schools or districts may not penalize students for failing to pay for a school lunch. These penalties include, but are not limited to, prohibiting students from attending field trips, participating in graduation or other recognition ceremonies, or attending other academically related activities. Further, SDE must develop and provide a model policy and template regarding the collection of school meal debt to each school district.

**State Department of Education.** The expenditure impact of this bill on SDE is pending, contingent upon a response from the agency.

**State Agency Schools.** The Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities indicates that the agency contracts with Aramark to provide meal service to its students and the program is not connected to federal funding. The Governor's School for Science and Mathematics indicates that the agency does not accept federal reimbursement for student meals and is reimbursed by its foundation for any needs-based student. The Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe indicates that the bill would have no expenditure impact. The School for the Deaf and Blind indicates that it does not charge students for meals. The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School indicates that students receive meals as part of the enrollment process. Therefore, we do not expect this bill will have an expenditure impact on the state agency schools.

**State Revenue**

N/A

**Local Expenditure**

This bill requires students who are eligible for free and reduced meal benefits to receive the same federally reimbursable meal as students not eligible for free and reduced meals as prescribed in 7 C.F.R. Part 215 and the Special Milk Program. Federally reimbursable meals must be offered even if the student owes money for previous meals. Schools that offer food and beverages separately from federally reimbursable meals may not allow students to accrue a balance when purchasing items and may only accept cash or allow funds to be electronically drawn from a prepaid balance. Schools or districts may not penalize students for failing to pay for a school lunch. These penalties include, but are not limited to, prohibiting students from attending field trips, participating in graduation or other recognition ceremonies, or attending other academically related activities. Further, SDE must develop and provide a model policy and template regarding the collection of school meal debt to each school district.

The expenditure impact on local school districts is pending, contingent upon a response from SDE.

**Local Revenue**

N/A



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Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director