

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 282

BY REPRESENTATIVE GREEN

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

SCHOOLS/FOOD PROGRAMS: Requires free school breakfast and lunch for certain students

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:192(B)(3), relative to school meals; to provide that certain students shall
3 be provided free school breakfast and lunch; to provide for applicability; to require
4 reimbursement by the state Department of Education; and to provide for related
5 matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:192(B)(3) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §192. Lunches and breakfasts; duty to furnish

9 * * *

10 B.

11 * * *

12 (3)(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, an eligible
13 student shall be provided breakfast and lunch at no cost to the student.

14 (b) For purposes of this Paragraph, an eligible student is a student in grades
15 kindergarten through twelve who meets the federal eligibility guidelines for reduced
16 price meals by household size and income levels pursuant to the school breakfast
17 program and national school lunch program.

18 (c) For each breakfast or lunch served free of charge in accordance with this
19 Paragraph, the state Department of Education shall reimburse the governing

1 authority of a school nutrition program for each meal served an amount equal to the
 2 difference between the reimbursement rates for a free meal and a reduced-priced
 3 meal as annually determined by the United States Department of Agriculture.

4 Section 2. The provisions of R.S. 17:192(B)(3) as enacted by this Act shall apply to
 5 the 2023-2024 school year and each subsequent school year.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 282 Reengrossed

2023 Regular Session

Green

Abstract: Requires free school breakfast and lunch for certain public school students.

Present law provides for the provision of school meals. Proposed law:

- (1) Provides that students in grades kindergarten through 12 who qualify for reduced-price meals shall be provided breakfast and lunch at no cost to the student.
- (2) Provides that for each breakfast or lunch served free of charge in accordance with proposed law, the state Dept. of Education shall reimburse the governing authority of a nutrition program provider for the meal an amount equal to the difference between the reimbursement rates provided by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture for a free meal and a reduced-price meal.
- (3) Provides that proposed law shall be implemented beginning with the 2023-2024 school year and each subsequent school year.

(Adds R.S. 17:192(B)(3))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Limit applicability of proposed law to students who qualify for reduced-price school meals.
2. Require reimbursement by the state Dept. of Education.

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the engrossed bill:

1. Change the language referencing a "free breakfast and lunch" to "breakfast and lunch at no cost to the student."
2. Add language that students eligible for the program shall be in grades kindergarten through 12.
3. Change the language referencing the "national school breakfast and school lunch programs" to "school breakfast program and national school lunch program."

4. Provide that the Department of Education shall reimburse the authority of a school lunch program for each meal served equal to the difference between the reimbursement rates for a free meal and a reduced-price meal as annually determined by the USDA.