

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 567

BY REPRESENTATIVES BOYD, FREEMAN, LANDRY, AND SCHLEGEL AND
SENATOR BARROW

SCHOOLS/FOOD PROGRAMS: Creates the Lifestyle Choices pilot program

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:195.2, relative to school nutrition programs; to create a pilot program to
3 be implemented in certain schools; to require the State Board of Elementary and
4 Secondary Education and the Department of Agriculture and Forestry to collaborate
5 relative to the pilot program; requires the state Department of Education to
6 administer the pilot program; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:195.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §195.2. Lifestyle Choices pilot program

10 A. The legislature finds that:

11 (1) Children can make more healthy choices with increased access to fresh,
12 unprocessed produce; whole, healthy grains; and lean sources of protein that all
13 contribute to a balanced diet.

14 (2) Offering healthier options to children is one way to get students involved
15 in nutrition.

16 (3) Some students do not get well-rounded meals at home, which makes the
17 food they eat at school even more significant.

18 (4) School lunches should be composed of more health-conscious food and
19 less processed food.

1 (5) Louisiana students need a base of healthy eating habits that include
2 eating lean meats, fish, fresh produce, and dairy and an understanding of the food
3 pyramid.

4 B.(1) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in
5 collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, shall develop and
6 implement a program whereby fresh food is incorporated into school-provided
7 lunches at certain schools. The state Department of Education shall administer the
8 program, the purpose of which is assisting school and school food service personnel
9 to identify and utilize all available resources to increase the variety of healthy food
10 options in school nutrition programs.

11 (2) The Department of Education shall identify and select public school
12 governing authorities for operation of a pilot program as defined by this Section.

13 (3) The Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture and
14 Forestry shall collaboratively:

15 (a) Provide an inventory of food distribution companies with which public
16 schools or school districts may contract.

17 (b) Disseminate procurement guidelines, school food safety information, and
18 liability insurance requirements to food distribution companies that can potentially
19 contract with schools and school districts for the implementation of the pilot
20 program.

21 (c) Consult with the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, the
22 Southern University Agricultural Center, the Louisiana Farm to School Alliance, and
23 other stakeholders, as necessary.

24 C. Implementation of the provisions of this Section is subject to the
25 appropriation of funds by the legislature.

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 567 Reengrossed

2022 Regular Session

Boyd

Abstract: Creates the Lifestyle Choices pilot program.

Proposed law requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education, in collaboration with the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF), to develop and implement a school lunch pilot program to be administered by the state Dept. of Education (DOE).

Provides that the purpose of the program is assisting school and school food service personnel to identify and utilize all available resources to increase the use of more fresh food in school nutrition programs.

Requires DOE to select school governing authorities for participation in the program.

Requires DOE and the LDAF to collaboratively:

- (1) Provide an inventory of food distribution companies to the schools and school districts eligible for participation.
- (2) Disseminate specific procurement guidelines for farmers regarding contracting with schools and school districts and school food safety and liability insurance requirements.
- (3) Consult with university agricultural centers, the La. Farm to School Alliance, and other stakeholders in implementing proposed law.

Provides that implementation of the Lifestyle Choices pilot program is subject to the appropriation of funds by the legislature.

(Adds R.S. 17:195.2)