

SENATE, No. 704

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Requires school district to establish “School Meal Fund” to assist students with school meal bill in arrears.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/19/2020)

1 **AN ACT** concerning school meals and supplementing chapter 33 of
2 Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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7 1. a. A board of education shall establish a “School Meal
8 Fund” for the purpose of accepting donations to assist students with
9 the purchase of school breakfast or school lunch and to fund any
10 arrears in the school breakfast or school lunch bills of students
11 enrolled in the school district. A board of education shall accept
12 donations from any person or entity, unless the donation is
13 otherwise precluded by law or regulation. The School Meal Fund
14 shall be established through the adoption of a resolution by the
15 board of education. The fund shall be maintained under the
16 jurisdiction of the board of education and the supervision of the
17 school business administrator.

18 The fund shall be credited with any donations made to the fund,
19 any moneys allocated to the fund by the school district, and any
20 interest income that may be earned on the investment of moneys in
21 the fund.

22 b. The board of education shall ensure, through the adoption of
23 a board policy, that all financial and bookkeeping controls are
24 adequate to ensure appropriate fiscal accountability of the fund.
25 The board policy shall also outline the standards that shall be
26 applied in making a determination to disburse funds from the
27 School Meal Fund. Disbursements from the fund shall be recorded
28 showing the date, purpose, and amount of the disbursement. The
29 fund shall be subject to audit as part of the school district’s annual
30 audit conducted pursuant to N.J.S.18A:23-1.

31 c. The board of education shall provide, through written and
32 electronic means, information to the parents and guardians of
33 students enrolled in the school district and to other residents of the
34 school district and community organizations on the establishment of
35 the fund, its purposes, and the procedures to be followed to make a
36 donation to the fund. The information shall also be posted in a
37 prominent location on the school district’s Internet website.

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39 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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44 This bill requires a school district to establish a “School Meal
45 Fund” for the purpose of accepting donations to assist students with
46 the purchase of school breakfast or school lunch and to fund any
47 arrears in the school breakfast or school lunch bills of students
48 enrolled in the school district. The fund will be established through

1 the adoption of a resolution by the board of education. The board
2 will also adopt a policy that will ensure the fiscal accountability of
3 the fund and will outline the standards that will be applied in
4 making a determination to disburse moneys from the School Meal
5 Fund. The fund will be subject to audit as part of the school
6 district's annual audit required under current law.

7 The bill directs a board of education to provide, through written
8 and electronic means, information to the parents and guardians of
9 students enrolled in the school district and to other residents of the
10 school district and community organizations on the establishment of
11 the fund, its purposes, and the procedures to be followed to make a
12 donation to the fund. The information will also be posted in a
13 prominent location on the school district's Internet website.