

# ASSEMBLY, No. 5144

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 6, 2023

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman REGINALD W. ATKINS**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblymen Sampson, Stanley, Mukherji, Kennedy and Assemblywoman Jaffer**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires school districts to offer halal lunch options.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/23/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning school lunch options and supplementing  
2 chapter 33 of 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. As used in this section, "halal" means food prepared  
8 pursuant to and maintained in strict compliance with the laws and  
9 customs of the Islamic religion.

10 b. A school district that makes school lunch available pursuant  
11 to the provisions of section 1 of P.L.1974, c.53 (C.18A:33-4) shall  
12 offer halal school lunch options as part of the daily school lunch  
13 menu. A school district's halal school lunch options shall comply  
14 with the National School Lunch Program and all applicable State  
15 and federal nutritional mandates and food safety requirements.

16 c. The price of a halal school lunch option shall not exceed the  
17 price charged for a comparable, non-halal school lunch option.

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19 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to  
20 the first full school year following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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25 This bill requires each public school district at which at least five  
26 percent of the students are federally eligible for free or reduced  
27 price meals to offer halal school lunch options. As defined in the  
28 bill, "halal" means food prepared pursuant to and maintained in  
29 strict compliance with the laws and customs of the Islamic religion.

30 Under the bill, a school district's halal option is required to  
31 comply with the National School Lunch Program and all applicable  
32 State and federal nutritional mandates and food safety requirements.  
33 Additionally, the bill stipulates that the price of a halal lunch option  
34 is not to exceed the price of a comparable, non-halal school lunch  
35 option.