

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1928

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 3, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

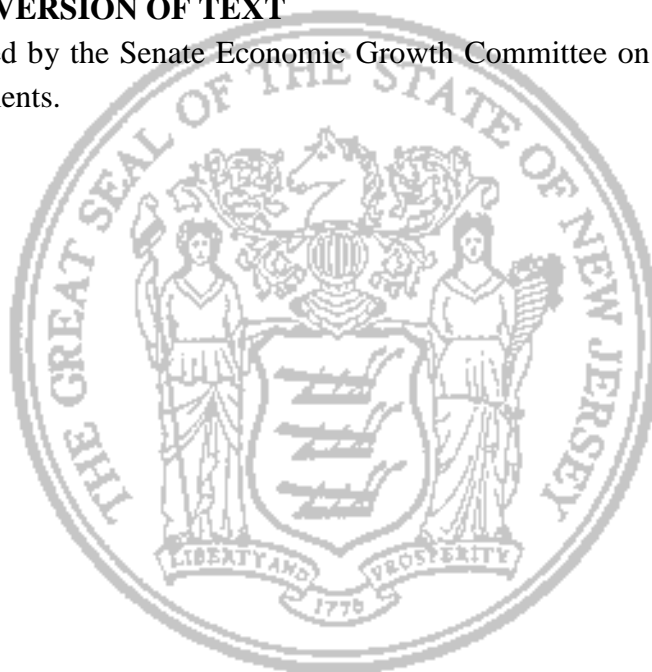
Senators Pou and Turner

SYNOPSIS

Requires school food authorities to engage in public education campaigns and develop promotional materials to educate parents and guardians of students about existing and expanding school meals program options.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Economic Growth Committee on June 13, 2022, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/16/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning the promotion of, and the education of parents
 2 and guardians regarding, school meals programs that are
 3 operating, or that are subject to expansion, in the State, and
 4 amending P.L.2019, c.307.

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

8
 9 1. Section 1 of P.L.2019, c.307 (C.18A:33-27.1) is amended to
 10 read as follows:

11 1. a. ¹**【The Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the**
 12 **Department of Education,】** Each school food authority that provides
 13 a food service to students at a public school in the State¹ shall¹, in
 14 the two languages that are most commonly spoken in the homes of
 15 students in the public school served by the school food authority¹:

16 (1) develop and implement a public education campaign to
 17 educate ¹the¹ parents and guardians ¹【in the State】 of students at
 18 schools served by the school food authority¹ about the various
 19 school meals programs that are available for students in New
 20 Jersey, and ¹about¹ the availability of free and reduced price meals,
 21 under such programs, for students who satisfy federal or State-level
 22 eligibility criteria; and

23 (2) develop promotional 【material】 materials for the 【"School
 24 Meal Program"】 State's school meals programs, and provide
 25 ¹【such】 copies of the¹ promotional materials to ¹【every】 each¹
 26 school ¹【district】¹ 【with the "School Meal Program" promotional
 27 material, which shall ¹that is served by the school food authority¹
 28 in the State, for distribution ¹【thereby】 , by school staff,¹ to the
 29 parents and guardians of students who are enrolled at ¹【schools in
 30 the district.】 the school. The school food authority shall utilize
 31 existing resources, which have been made available by the United
 32 States Department of Agriculture and the New Jersey Department of
 33 Agriculture, in developing promotional materials for the purposes
 34 of this paragraph.¹ The promotional materials developed pursuant
 35 to this paragraph shall include, but need not be limited to,
 36 pamphlets, presentation 【material】 materials, webinars, and sample
 37 letters that schools may send to parents and guardians.

38 b. The 【"School Meal Program"】 public education campaign
 39 and promotional 【material】 materials developed under subsection a.
 40 of this section shall:

41 (1) ¹satisfy the standards, and comply with the guidelines,
 42 established by the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with
 43 the Department of Education, pursuant to subsection c. of this
 44 section;

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SEG committee amendments adopted June 13, 2022.

1 (2)¹ highlight and promote the nature, purposes, value, and
2 importance of the National School Lunch Program, the federal
3 School Breakfast Program, [and] the federal Summer Food Service
4 Program [,] and other similar summer meals programs, as well as
5 the State's breakfast after the bell programs, established pursuant to
6 section 1 of P.L.2014, c.66 (C.18A:33-11.1) or section 2 of
7 P.L.2018, c.25 (C.18A:33-11.3), the State's emergency meals
8 distribution program, established pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2020,
9 c.6 (C.18A:33-27.2), and any new school meals programs that are
10 implemented in the State after the effective date of
11 P.L. , c. '[(C.)]' (pending before the Legislature as this
12 bill);

13 ¹[(2)] (3)¹ emphasize the importance of providing a nutritious
14 meal to all children for their general health and [their] success in
15 school;

16 ¹[(3)] (4)¹ emphasize and promote the ability of eligible
17 students to obtain free or reduced price meals under the State's
18 school meals programs, and inform parents and guardians about the
19 various ways in which a student may be determined to be
20 categorically eligible for free meals under these programs, and the
21 federal and State-level income-based criteria that must be satisfied
22 in order for a student to obtain free or reduced price school meals,
23 under these programs, on the basis of annual household income;

24 ¹[(4)] (5)¹ highlight and describe the application and
25 determination processes that are used, by schools and school
26 districts, to certify students for free or reduced price school meals;

27 ¹[(5)] (6)¹ highlight and describe the rights that are applicable to
28 students and families in association with a student's subsidized or
29 unsubsidized receipt of school meals in the State; and

30 ¹[(6)] (7)¹ inform parents and guardians about the nature and
31 extent of any proposed or implemented expansion of the existing
32 school meals programs in the State, including, but not limited to,
33 the nature and extent of any proposed or implemented expansion of
34 the categories of students who are eligible for free or reduced price
35 school meals under such programs.

36 ¹c. (1) Within 60 days after the effective date of P.L. , c.
37 (pending before the Legislature as this bill, the Department of
38 Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Education, shall
39 adopt standards and guidelines to ensure the uniformity and
40 accuracy of school meals-related information being presented by
41 school food authorities as part of the educational campaigns
42 conducted, and in the promotional materials distributed, pursuant to
43 this section.

44 (2) Within 60 days of the effective date of P.L. , c.
45 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the Department of
46 Education shall provide each school food authority that provides a
47 food service to students at a public school in the State with

1 information concerning the two languages that are most commonly
2 spoken in the homes of students in each of the public schools that
3 the school food authority serves. The Department of Education
4 shall periodically, and at least every five years, verify the two
5 languages that are most commonly spoken in the homes of students
6 in each public school served by each school food authority.

7 d. As used in this section:

8 “School food authority” shall mean the school, school district, or
9 third-party food service vendor, as applicable.¹

10 (cf: P.L.2019, c.307, s.1)

11

12 2. This act shall take effect immediately.