

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

H.B. 946
Apr 25, 2019
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

H

D

HOUSE BILL DRH10422-MTa-25

Short Title: Free Lunch for Some Students/Stop Lunch Shame. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Brockman and Horn (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO PROVIDE FREE LUNCH TO STUDENTS
3 ELIGIBLE FOR REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH AND TO ENACT AN
4 ANTISTIGMATIZATION AND ANTIDISCRIMINATION POLICY IN SCHOOL
5 NUTRITION.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
8 Public Instruction the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) in recurring funds for the
9 2019-2020 fiscal year to provide that any student eligible for reduced-price lunch in a public
10 school unit receive lunch at no cost. For purposes of this section, the term "public school unit"
11 refers to a local school administrative unit, a regional school, a charter school, an innovative
12 school, or a laboratory school. These funds shall be allocated to each public school unit based on
13 the submission of a monthly claim for reimbursement that includes the number of reduced-price
14 meals served to students.

15 **SECTION 1.(b)** If the funds appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) of this section
16 are insufficient to achieve the purpose described in that subsection, the State Board of Education
17 may authorize funds appropriated to State Aid for Public Schools for that purpose.

18 **SECTION 1.(c)** The Department of Public Instruction shall include information
19 regarding the cost of implementing the requirements of this section in any request submitted to
20 the General Assembly for budget adjustments related to enrollment growth.

21 **SECTION 2.** Part 2 of Article 17 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended
22 by adding a new section to read:

23 "**§ 115C-264.5. Antistigmatization and antidiscrimination practices.**

24 (a) In the operation of their school nutrition programs, schools shall not engage in public
25 identification or stigmatization of a student who cannot pay for a meal or who owes a meal debt
26 by, for example, requiring that the student wear a wristband or hand stamp.

27 (b) A school shall direct communications about a student's meal debt to a parent or
28 guardian and not the student. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit a school from sending a
29 student home with a letter addressed to a parent or guardian."

30 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2019, and applies beginning with
31 the 2019-2020 school year.

