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SENATE BILL NO. 4

Offered January 14, 2026

Prefiled November 17, 2025

A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-79.7:1 of the Code of Virginia and to repeal § 22.1-207.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to school breakfast; availability at no cost to students.

Patron—Roem

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 22.1-79.7:1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 22.1-79.7:1. School meals; availability of school breakfast to students at no cost.**

A. Each school board shall require each public elementary and secondary school in the local school division to participate in the federal National School Lunch Program and the federal School Breakfast Program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and to make (i) lunch ~~and breakfast~~ available pursuant to ~~such programs~~ *the federal National School Lunch Program* to any student who requests ~~such a meal~~ *a school lunch*, regardless of whether such student has the money to pay for the ~~meal~~ *lunch* or owes money for meals previously provided *and (ii) breakfast available pursuant to the federal School Breakfast Program to any student who requests a school breakfast at no cost to the student*, unless the student's parent has provided written permission to the school board to withhold such a meal from the student.

B. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the ability of a school board to collect payment for meals provided pursuant to subsection A, provided, however, that no such school board shall utilize a nongovernmental third-party debt collector to collect on such debt. *The Department shall reimburse each public elementary and secondary school for each school breakfast served to a student, with a maximum of one breakfast per student per school day. The state reimbursement amount shall be the difference between the amount paid by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the free rate as set annually by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture under 42 U.S.C. § 1759a for each school.*

C. *The Department may promulgate such rules as deemed necessary for the implementation of this section.*

2. That § 22.1-207.3 of the Code of Virginia is repealed.

INTRODUCED

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