

**Department of Planning and Budget**  
**2026 General Assembly Session**  
**State Fiscal Impact Statement**

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**ORIGINAL**

**Bill Number:** SB42S1

**Patron:** Roem

**Bill Title:** School boards; powers and duties, school meal policies, payment of school meal debt.

**Bill Summary:** Requires the Department of Education to evaluate the impact of requiring each school board, at the end of each school year, to pay for the total unpaid school meal balance on the nonprofit food service account of each public elementary or secondary school in the school division resulting from uncollectible school meal debts on any student account. In conducting the evaluation, the Department, in consultation with the school divisions, shall review (i) the total amount of uncollectible school meal debt in public elementary and secondary schools in each school district; (ii) aggregate socioeconomic data on children and families with uncollectible school meal debt in each school district; (iii) the fiscal impact of school boards paying the uncollectible school meal debt on local school funds in each school district; (iv) current funding sources that school boards use to pay uncollectible school meal debt; and (v) best practices and other strategies employed in localities such as Prince William County to pay uncollectible school meal debt. Requires the Department to submit a report on any findings no later than November 1, 2026.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

**Items Impacted:** None

**Explanation:** There is no anticipated state fiscal impact resulting from the provisions of this bill. Any impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

**Fiscal Analysis:** The Department of Education can complete any work to develop the report required by the bill with existing staff.

**Other:** None