

### Fiscal Estimate - 2019 Session

Original     
  Updated     
  Corrected     
  Supplemental

<b>LRB Number</b> 19-1212/2	<b>Introduction Number</b> AB-0084
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**Description**  
 imposing requirements related to school lunch and breakfast programs in certain schools

**Fiscal Effect**

**State:**

No State Fiscal Effect  
 Indeterminate

<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs
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**Local:**

No Local Government Costs  
 Indeterminate

1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	5. Types of Local Government Units Affected <input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities <input type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts
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<b>Fund Sources Affected</b>	<b>Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS	

<b>Agency/Prepared By</b> DPI/ Carl Bryan (608) 267-9127	<b>Authorized Signature</b> Erin Fath (608) 266-2804	<b>Date</b> 2/14/2019
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## Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 2/14/2019

LRB Number	19-1212/2	Introduction Number	AB-0084	Estimate Type	Original
<b>Description</b> imposing requirements related to school lunch and breakfast programs in certain schools					

### Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill 1) requires certain schools to provide a school lunch or breakfast to a pupil who requests such a meal; 2) prohibits those schools from taking certain actions against a pupil who is unable to pay for those meals; and 3) requires those schools to provide information and take certain actions related to applications for free or reduced-price meals.

The bill defines "school" as a public school, private school, charter school, tribal school, the Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, or the Wisconsin Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, provided the school, program, or center receives state aid for providing school lunches and breakfasts (free or reduced-price meals).

Under the bill, the school board of a school district, governing body of a private school, operator of an independent charter school, governing body of a tribal school, director of the program, or director of the center (governing body) must provide a meal that is of a similar quality to a free or reduced-price meal (quality meal) to a pupil who requests such a meal, regardless of the pupil's ability to pay for the meal, and prohibits the governing body from providing a meal of inferior quality in place of a quality meal. If the pupil is homeless and is enrolled in a public school or independent charter school, the governing body of the school must provide the quality meal to the pupil at no cost to the pupil.

The bill prohibits the governing body of a school from doing any of the following:

1. Publicly identifying or stigmatizing a pupil who is unable to pay for a quality meal or who has outstanding debt related to a quality meal.
2. Requiring a pupil who is unable to pay for a quality meal, as a condition of receiving the quality meal, to do chores or other work not expected of a pupil who has the ability to pay.
3. Requiring a pupil who has received a quality meal to relinquish or throw away that quality meal because the pupil is unable to pay for the quality meal or has outstanding debt related to a quality meal.

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3. Requiring a pupil who has received a quality meal to relinquish or throw away that quality meal because the pupil is unable to pay for the quality meal or has outstanding debt related to a quality meal.
4. Communicating directly with a pupil concerning the pupil's inability to pay for a quality meal or to pay outstanding debt related to a quality meal. (The bill does not prohibit communication directly with the pupil's parent or guardian.)
5. Requiring a pupil or the pupil's parent or guardian to pay fees or costs charged by a collection agency retained by the governing body to collect outstanding debt related to a quality meal.

Finally, the bill requires the governing body of a school annually to provide certain information regarding the application process to receive free or reduced-price meals to the parent or guardian of each pupil enrolled in the school, and, if the governing body determines that a pupil is eligible for free or reduced-price meals but has not submitted an application, the governing body must submit an application on the pupil's behalf.

State:

The bill does not appropriate any funds to the Department, so there is no fiscal impact to the state's general fund as a result of this bill. However, the Department may receive questions or complaints related to compliance to the requirements in this bill, resulting in staff time dedicated to receiving complaints. The bill does not authorize the Department to monitor or enforce the provisions of the bill, nor does it prescribe a complaint procedure for the Department to use. Any additional time required of Department staff to address questions or complaints around the provisions of this bill would be absorbed with existing staff resources.

Local:

School districts may adjust practices with respect to the requirements in this bill; specifically, in providing a quality meal to a pupil who requests such a meal, providing information to parents related to a pupil's outstanding debts incurred by receiving meals, and take certain actions related to applications for free or reduced-price meals on behalf of certain pupils. Because no additional resources are provided for schools to comply with the provisions of the bill, it is assumed that operational changes made as a result of this bill would be absorbed within existing school resources.

Finally, it is not certain how the provisions of the bill would impact the ability of a school to collect a pupil's outstanding unpaid balances for quality meals. To the extent that a school's ability to collect unpaid balances is restricted, the district would lose revenue. Additionally, a school would forego fees associated with utilizing a collections agency (that would otherwise be passed onto the pupil's parent/guardian) to recoup unpaid balances. The Department does not have data to project the potential for revenue loss to schools. Therefore, the local fiscal impact as a result of this bill is indeterminate.

### **Long-Range Fiscal Implications**

There are no long-range fiscal implications to the Department or to the state's general fund as a result of this bill. The long-range fiscal implications for schools is indeterminate.