



Know Your Government

Bill No. 0004



AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49 and Title 71, relative to the “Anti-School Lunch Shaming Act.”

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 2020 TENNESSEE 4-H CONGRESS:

SECTION 1: This bill requires schools to provide a USDA reimbursable meal to each student who requests one, unless the student's parent or guardian has specifically provided written direction to the school to withhold a meal.

- This bill prohibits schools from requiring students to throw away a meal after it has been served because of the student's inability to pay for the meal or because the student owes a meal debt.
- Under this bill, if a student owes money for five or more meals during a school year, then the student's school must attempt, on at last two separate occasions, to contact the student's parent or guardian to discuss the reasons for the meal debt and to offer any available assistance, including assisting the parent or guardian with filling out a meal application.
- This bill does not prohibit a school from collecting a meal debt from a student's parent or guardian.

SECTION 2: This bill prohibits a school from:

- Publicly identifying a student who cannot pay for a meal or who owes a meal debt, including, but not limited to, requiring that a student wear a wristband or hand stamp;
- Requiring a student who cannot pay for a meal or who owes a meal debt to do chores or other work to pay for meals; or
- Prohibiting a student who cannot pay for a meal or who owes a meal debt from:
 - Participating in a school-related event or activity;
 - Graduating or participating in a graduation ceremony; or
 - Receiving a diploma.

SECTION 3: This bill requires a school to direct communication about a student's meal debt to the student's parent or guardian and not to the student. This bill specifies that a school must not require a student's parent or guardian to pay additional fees or costs from collection agencies hired to collect a meal debt.

SECTION 4: This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.

Passed: _____

Speaker of the Senate
Tennessee 4-H Congress

Speaker of the House of Representatives
Tennessee 4-H Congress

Approved: _____

Governor
Tennessee 4-H Congress