



HB0696/803024/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

13 MAR 24
08:55:06

BY: Delegate Palakovich Carr
(To be offered in the Ways and Means Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 696
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike in their entirety lines 2 and 3 and substitute “**Education – Study on a Universal Free School Meals Program**”; and strike beginning with “altering” in line 4 down through “schools” in line 11 and substitute “requiring the Department of Legislative Services, in consultation with certain experts, to conduct a study on the creation of a universal free school meals program; specifying the requirements and report date of the study; and generally relating to a study on the creation of a universal free school meals program”.

On pages 1 and 2, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 12 on page 1 through line 5 on page 2, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 2 through 7, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 6 on page 2 through line 2 on page 7, inclusive, and substitute:

“SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) In this section, “universal free school meals program” means a program that offers breakfast and lunch at no cost to all students in public schools and participating nonpublic schools.

(b) The Department of Legislative Services, in consultation with expert representatives of the education, antihunger, and public health communities, shall conduct a study on the creation of a universal free school meals program.

(c) The study required under subsection (b) of this section shall examine the potential impact of a universal free school meals program on:

(1) the academic performance of students in the State;

(2) the finances of the families of students and the associated socioeconomic impact;

(3) the goals of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future relating to academic performance and attendance;

(4) student attendance, absenteeism, and tardiness;

(5) student health, nutrition, and diet;

(6) student unpaid meal debt; and

(7) best practices for implementation of a universal free school meals program.

(d) The study required under subsection (b) of this section shall also examine states that have implemented a universal free school meals program, including:

(1) details of the programs that have been implemented;

(2) impacts of the programs on the items listed under subsection (c) of this section; and

(3) best practices and lessons learned from the implemented programs.

(e) On or before December 1, 2024, the Department of Legislative Services shall report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2025, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.