

HB0696/253126/1

BY: Ways and Means Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 696
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 3, after “**Expansion**” insert “**Report**”; strike beginning with “altering” in line 4 down through “lunch” in line 10 and substitute “requiring the State Department of Education, on or before a certain date, to report to the General Assembly on a cost estimate for providing free breakfast and lunch to all students in public schools”; in line 10, after “to” insert “a report on”; and in line 11, strike “participating” and substitute “public”.

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 page 2, in line 7, strike “the Laws of Maryland read as follows”.

On pages 2 through 7, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 8 on page 2 through line 2 on page 7, inclusive, and substitute:

“(a) (1) The Maryland General Assembly recognizes the positive impact on students’ academic, physical, and social and emotional health that results from ensuring students have access to breakfast and lunch programs while at school.

(2) While Maryland has made significant progress in providing meals to all students through a variety of programs, this has led to a patchwork approach across the State.

(b) On or before December 1, 2024, the State Department of Education shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, on the cost to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students in public schools in the State.

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(c) In determining the cost estimate for the report required under subsection (b) of this section, the Department shall consider:

(1) for each county, the current rate of providing free breakfast and lunch through programs including:

(i) Maryland Meals for Achievement; and

(ii) participation in the United States Department of Agriculture Community Eligibility Program; and

(2) for each county, including data disaggregated by elementary, middle, and high school, and by breakfast and lunch:

(i) the participation rates in the school meals program;

(ii) the student cost for meals;

(iii) subsidies provided to students to assist in the cost of meals;

(iv) school attendance rates;

(v) the staffing costs of providing meals on a per pupil basis; and

(vi) the thresholds for participation in the Community Eligibility Provisions.

(d) In addition, the Department shall compile research completed in other states that have established universal meal programs and prepare a summary of any findings presented in those reports as part of its report under subsection (b) of this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year 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.”.