

1 State of Arkansas  
2 92nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2019  
4

As Engrossed: H2/19/19  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1356

5 By: Representative A. Davis  
6

7 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

8 AN ACT TO CREATE THE HUNGER-FREE STUDENTS' BILL OF  
9 RIGHTS ACT; TO REQUIRE A PUBLIC SCHOOL TO PROVIDE A  
10 MEAL OR SNACK TO A STUDENT; TO ALLOW A SCHOOL TO  
11 ATTEMPT TO COLLECT MONEY OWED FOR A STUDENT'S SCHOOL  
12 MEAL OR SNACK; TO PROHIBIT A SCHOOL FROM STIGMATIZING  
13 A STUDENT WHO IS UNABLE TO PAY FOR A MEAL OR SNACK;  
14 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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17 **Subtitle**

18 TO CREATE THE HUNGER-FREE STUDENTS' BILL  
19 OF RIGHTS; TO REQUIRE A SCHOOL TO PROVIDE  
20 A MEAL OR SNACK; TO ALLOW A SCHOOL TO  
21 COLLECT MONEY OWED; AND TO PROHIBIT A  
22 SCHOOL FROM STIGMATIZING A STUDENT UNABLE  
23 TO PAY FOR A MEAL.  
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26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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28 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 7, is amended  
29 to add an additional section to read as follows:

30 6-18-714. Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act.

31 (a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Hunger-Free  
32 Students' Bill of Rights Act".

33 (b) As used in this section, "school" means a tax-supported  
34 kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) public school that participates in  
35 the United States Department of Agriculture National School Lunch Program.

36 (c) A school shall not:



1 (1) Provide a student requesting a meal or snack under this  
2 section a meal or snack that is different from the meal or snack being  
3 provided to other students in the school; or

4 (2) Prevent a student from accessing the school's meal or snack  
5 services.

6 (d) If a student owes money for a meal or snack that is in excess of  
7 the amount charged a student for five (5) lunches, or another amount as  
8 determined by the student's school district, a school may contact the parent  
9 or guardian of the student to:

10 (1) Attempt collection of the owed money; and

11 (2) Request that the parent or guardian apply for meal benefits  
12 in a federal or state child nutrition program.

13 (e) If a student is unable to pay for a meal or snack or owes money  
14 for a meal or snack, a school shall not:

15 (1) Require the student to wear a wristband;

16 (2) Give the student a hand stamp;

17 (3) Require the student to dispose of a meal or snack after the  
18 student is served the meal or snack;

19 (4) Require the student to sit in a location separate from other  
20 students;

21 (5) Publicly make known the name of the student; or

22 (6) Perform any other action that may stigmatize the student.

23 (f)(1) The Department of Education Child Nutrition Unit shall:

24 (A) Implement a system for reviewing the local practices  
25 of public school district food service programs to determine the support  
26 needed by public school districts; and

27 (B) Provide model policies that public school districts  
28 may adopt.

29 (2) The system of review established under subdivision (f)(1)(A)  
30 of this section shall address areas regarding without limitation:

31 (A) Ideas, innovations, and best practices for providing  
32 meals to vulnerable populations that contribute to the health and well-being  
33 of public school students;

34 (B) Resources and strategies for improving the nutritional  
35 quality and appeal of meals;

36 (C) Tips for implementing best practices;

1                    (D) Methods for informing parents and legal guardians of a  
2 public school district's meal charge policies; and

3                    (E) Plans for recovering costs for meal charges.

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5                    /s/A. Davis  
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