

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 771

Introduced by Walz, 15; Hansen, 26.

Read first time January 03, 2018

Committee: Education

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to schools; to adopt the Child Hunger and
- 2 Workforce Readiness Act; and to state intent relating to
- 3 appropriations.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 5 of this act shall be known and may be
2 cited as the Child Hunger and Workforce Readiness Act.

3 Sec. 2. The Legislature finds that:

4 (1) An educated and productive workforce in Nebraska is dependent
5 upon adequate preparation of its children to learn;

6 (2) Research shows that childhood hunger has lifelong and negative
7 consequences for cognition, physical and mental health, behavior, and
8 academic performance;

9 (3) Children must be well nourished before they are able to succeed
10 in the classroom, and hunger is a significant barrier to student learning
11 in the state; and

12 (4) Students who qualify for reduced-price breakfast and reduced-
13 price lunch may be particularly vulnerable to the consequences of an
14 unpaid school meal balance in the form of shaming, inequitable treatment,
15 or refusal of service.

16 Sec. 3. For the purposes of the Child Hunger and Workforce
17 Readiness Act:

18 (1) Reduced-price breakfast means a breakfast served to an eligible
19 student by a school district participating in the School Breakfast
20 Program under the federal Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. 1771 et
21 seq., as such act existed on January 1, 2018; and

22 (2) Reduced-price lunch means a lunch served to an eligible student
23 by a school district participating in the National School Lunch Program
24 under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq., as such
25 act existed on January 1, 2018.

26 Sec. 4. Except as provided in section 5 of this act, public schools
27 participating in the National School Lunch Program and the School
28 Breakfast Program shall provide all students who are eligible for
29 reduced-price breakfasts and reduced-price lunches with free meals at no
30 cost to the student. The State Department of Education shall reimburse
31 each qualified public school in Nebraska the amount that would otherwise

1 be charged for each meal to a student who qualifies for reduced-price
2 breakfast and reduced-price lunch. It is the intent of the Legislature to
3 appropriate funds from the General Fund to the State Department of
4 Education to carry out this section.

5 Sec. 5. The Child Hunger and Workforce Readiness Act does not apply
6 to any school receiving reimbursement under 42 U.S.C. 1759a, as such
7 section existed on January 1, 2018.