

HB 1508 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Education

NOT CONSIDERED 03/02/2017

1 On page 1, after line 5, insert the following:

2 "NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. (1) The legislature finds that thoughtful
3 and evidence-based school food programs are associated with improved
4 outcomes for students, including fewer disciplinary incidents, better
5 attendance, improved performance on standardized tests, and academic
6 success evidenced through increased graduation rates.

7 (2) The legislature acknowledges that while many schools currently
8 offer breakfast before the school day, and that many students have
9 benefited from the elimination of lunch copays for qualifying students
10 in kindergarten through third grade, there are significant numbers of
11 students who come to school hungry or who lack financial resources to
12 pay lunch copays.

13 (3) The legislature acknowledges also that existing school-related
14 farm programs play an important role in helping students to better
15 understanding the relationships between academics, food, farming, and
16 good health.

17 (4) The legislature finds that the purpose of sections 1 through 11
18 of this act is to achieve the public policy benefits specified in
19 subsection (1) of this section: improved student outcomes. To do so,
20 the legislature intends to:

21 (a) Expand opportunities for students to have a healthy breakfast
22 by requiring schools with large populations of qualifying low-income
23 students to offer breakfast after the bell programs, a program model
24 that has increased breakfast participation rates in other states;

25 (b) Increase support for the elimination of lunch copays for
26 qualifying students in prekindergarten and in grades for which the copay
27 remains; and

1 (c) Increase support for school-related farm programs that have
2 proven successful in supporting students through policies that, among
3 other benefits, promote student health and readiness through healthy
4 local foods and school garden projects."

5
6 Renumber the remaining sections consecutively and correct any
7 internal references accordingly.

8
9 Correct the title.

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EFFECT: Adds intent language, including specifying legislative intent to: (1) require qualifying schools to offer Breakfast after the Bell programs; (2) increase support for the elimination of lunch copays for qualifying students; and (3) increase support school-related farm programs.

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