

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 892

Short Title: Free Lunch for Some Students/Stop Lunch Shame. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Brockman, Harrison, Quick, and Terry (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Appropriations

April 26, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO PROVIDE FREE LUNCH TO ANY STUDENT
3 ELIGIBLE FOR REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH AND TO ENACT AN
4 ANTI-STIGMATIZATION AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY IN SCHOOL
5 NUTRITION.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
8 Public Instruction the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) in recurring funds for the
9 2017-2018 fiscal year to provide that any student eligible for reduced-price lunch, including
10 students in cooperative innovative high schools, regional schools, charter schools, and lab
11 schools, receive lunch at no cost. These funds shall be allocated to each local school
12 administrative unit based on the submission of a monthly claim for reimbursement that includes
13 the number of reduced-price meals served to students.

14 **SECTION 2.** Part 2 of Article 17 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is
15 amended by adding a new section to read:

16 "**§ 115C-264.5. Anti-stigmatization and anti-discrimination practices.**

17 (a) In the operation of their public school nutrition programs, the public schools shall
18 not engage in any of the following activities:

19 (1) Public identification or stigmatization of a student who cannot pay for a
20 meal or who owes a meal debt by, for example, requiring that the student
21 wear a wristband or hand stamp.

22 (2) Requiring a student who cannot pay for a meal or who owes a meal debt to
23 do chores or other work to pay for meals, unless chores or other work are
24 required of all students regardless of meal debt.

25 (b) A school shall direct communications about a student's meal debt to a parent or
26 guardian and not the student. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit a school from sending a
27 student home with a letter addressed to a parent or guardian."

28 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2017, and applies beginning with
29 the 2017-2018 school year.

