

CONFIDENTIAL
LEGISLATIVE BILL REVIEW FORM: 2013

Bill Number: S.26 **Name of Bill:** An act relating to providing state financial support for school meals for children of low-income households

Agency/ Dept: Education **Author of Bill Review:** Jill Remick

Date of Bill Review: 3/23/13 **Status of Bill: (check one):**

☒ x **Upon Introduction** ☐ **As passed by 1st body** ☐ **As passed by both bodies** ☐ **Fiscal**

Recommended Position:

☒ X **Support** ☐ **Oppose** ☐ **Remain Neutral** ☐ **Support with modifications identified in #8 below**

Analysis of Bill

1. Summary of bill and issue it addresses. *Describe what the bill is intended to accomplish and why.*

This bill proposes to use state funds to pay an eligible student's portion of a reduced-price school lunch.

2. Is there a need for this bill? *Please explain why or why not.*

Some families are having difficulty paying the 40 cent meal price as indicated by low participation.

3. What are likely to be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for this Department?

Fiscally, the department will provide more reimbursement of federal funds to school food authorities, increasing the federal funds that will need to be drawn through a letter of credit issued by USDA. Programmatically, the calculation and documentation of the additional funding source will require the department to revise the claims payment system and the related reports to document the state source of revenue, the meal counts, and the respective payments to each SFA. This will add a cost to Child Nutrition Programs to update the system and reports.

4. What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for other departments in state government, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?

Unknown at this time.

5. What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for others, and what is likely to be their perspective on it? (for example, public, municipalities, organizations, business, regulated entities, etc)

Schools will likely serve more school meals and use less administrative time trying to collect unpaid meal bills. The increase in meal participation may increase the food purchased from local businesses.

6. Other Stakeholders:

6.1 Who else is likely to support the proposal and why?

Hunger advocacy groups will support the proposal as this will provide more meals to students and provide support for low income families.

6.2 Who else is likely to oppose the proposal and why?

Some constituents may oppose the state government assuming the responsibilities that they feel families should manage.

Please return this bill review as a Microsoft Word document to drusilla.roessle@state.vt.us

7. Rationale for recommendation: *Justify recommendation stated above.*

Supporting this bill will allow more students to participate in the school lunch program who otherwise would not have been able to afford to without this financial support. Families who are over the income guidelines for free meals still have difficulty affording the 40 cents for school meals for their children. In this economic crisis, families are allocating their funds to provide housing, heat and utilities and transportation to their jobs, thus having less funds to provide food for their family. This support will ensure that students are fed and will then be more attentive and ready to learn in the classroom.

8. Specific modifications that would be needed to recommend support of this bill: *Not meant to rewrite bill, but rather, an opportunity to identify simple modifications that would change recommended position.*

Secretary/Commissioner has reviewed this document: yes **Date:** 4/5/13