

JBC Staff Fiscal Analysis
House Appropriations Committee

Concerning reimbursements for eligible meals provided through the healthy school meals for all program, and, in connection therewith, making and reducing an appropriation.

Prime Sponsors:

Senators Bridges; Amabile
Representatives Sirota; Taggart

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Fiscal Impacts

Appropriation Already Added to Bill, Amendment in Packet
General Fund Impact

Fiscal Note Status

The most recent Legislative Council Staff Revised Fiscal Note (attached) reflects the fiscal impact of the bill as of 04/07/25.

No Change: Attached LCS Fiscal Note accurately reflects the fiscal impact of the bill.

Amendments in This Packet

- L.004 Bill Sponsor amendment - does not change fiscal impact.
- L.005 Bill Sponsor amendment - does not change fiscal impact.

Current Appropriations Clause in Bill

The bill includes an appropriation clause that adjusts FY 2025-26 appropriations in the Long Bill for the Department of Education for school meal reimbursements as follows:

- *Reduces* the General Fund appropriation by \$42,240,242; and
- *Increases* the cash funds appropriation from the State Education Fund by \$8,119,271.

Description of Amendments in This Packet

L.004

Bill Sponsor amendment **L.004** (attached) **reverses** Senate Amendment L.002, which struck language in the introduced bill regarding what happens if the Department of Education, in consultation with OSPB, estimates that the amount of money available for the program is less than its cost. As introduced, the bill included a requirement that the Department notify the JBC and pause further action for up to 30 days to enable the JBC to consider a supplemental or interim supplemental adjustment. The Senate amendment struck language requiring a pause, so the reengrossed bill states that the Department will notify the JBC and school districts and then begin to prorate funding. Amendment **L.004** reinstates the pause.

L.005

Bill Sponsor amendment **L.005** (attached) **clarifies** changes included in Senate Amendment L.001. The Senate amendment specifies that to avoid scaling back the program on January 1, 2026, the combined revenue from the existing Healthy School Meals for All tax and a new tax to increase program revenue, considered by voters in November 2025, must total at least \$150 million annually. Sponsor amendment **L.005** clarifies how this is determined. Voter approval will be deemed to have resulted in at least \$150 million in annual revenue for the program based on the projection in the fiscal impact statement that is distributed to voters with the ballot information book for the November 2025 election.

Amendments **L.004** and **L.005** do not have a fiscal impact.

The Committee may adopt both L.004 and L.005.

Points to Consider

General Fund Impact

The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) has proposed a budget package for FY 2025-26 based on the March 2025 Office of State Planning and Budgeting revenue forecast. The JBC has included as part of its FY 2025-26 budget package a reduction of \$42,240,242 General Fund appropriations to be included in this bill.