

Food Security Amendments
2025 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Tyler Clancy

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill establishes a program to provide free breakfast and lunch to eligible students and requires participation in the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer Program.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- requires the Department of Work Force Services to participate in the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program;
- provides all eligible students with free breakfast and lunch;
- requires the State Board of Education to reimburse each LEA for the cost of providing each meal;
- prohibits LEAs from publicly identifying or stigmatizing students who cannot afford meals; and
- requires communications regarding a student's meal debt to be directed only to the student's parent or guardian.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

35A-3-103, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 328

ENACTS:

53F-2-422, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **35A-3-103** is amended to read:

35A-3-103 . Department responsibilities.

- 32 The department shall:
- 33 (1) administer public assistance programs assigned by the Legislature and the governor;
- 34 (2) determine eligibility for public assistance programs in accordance with the requirements
35 of this chapter;
- 36 (3) cooperate with the federal government in the administration of public assistance
37 programs;
- 38 (4) administer state employment services;
- 39 (5) provide for the compilation of necessary or desirable information, statistics, and reports;
- 40 (6) perform other duties and functions required by law;
- 41 (7) monitor the application of eligibility policy;
- 42 (8) develop personnel training programs for effective and efficient operation of the
43 programs administered by the department;
- 44 (9) provide refugee resettlement services in accordance with Section 35A-3-701;
- 45 (10) provide child care assistance for children in accordance with Part 2, Office of Child
46 Care;
- 47 (11) provide services that enable an applicant or recipient to qualify for affordable housing
48 in cooperation with:
- 49 (a) the Utah Housing Corporation;
- 50 (b) the Housing and Community Development Division; and
- 51 (c) local housing authorities;
- 52 (12) administer the Medicaid Eligibility Quality Control function in accordance with 42
53 C.F.R. Sec. 431.812; [~~and~~]
- 54 (13) conduct non-clinical eligibility hearings and issue final decisions in adjudicative
55 proceedings, including expedited appeals as defined in 42 C.F.R. Sec. 431.224, for
56 medical assistance eligibility under:
- 57 (a) Title 26B, Chapter 3, Health Care - Administration and Assistance; or
- 58 (b) Title 26B, Chapter 3, Part 9, Utah Children's Health Insurance Program[-] ; and
- 59 (14) participate in the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program described
60 in 42 U.S.C. 1762:
- 61 (a) in accordance with applicable federal law and regulation;
- 62 (b) subject to available federal funds; and
- 63 (c) subject to legislative appropriations.
- 64 Section 2. Section **53F-2-422** is enacted to read:
- 65 **53F-2-422 . School Meal Program.**

- 66 (1) As used in this section:
- 67 (a) "Eligible student" means a student in kindergarten through grade 12 who qualifies for
- 68 reduced-price meals based on household size and income levels under the School
- 69 Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program.
- 70 (b) "National School Lunch Program" means the same as that term is defined in 7 C.F.R.
- 71 Sec. 210.2.
- 72 (c) "School Breakfast Program" means the same as that term is defined in 7 C.F.R. Sec.
- 73 220.2.
- 74 (2) An LEA shall provide breakfast and lunch to an eligible student on a school day at no
- 75 cost.
- 76 (3) The State Board of Education shall reimburse an LEA for each free breakfast or lunch
- 77 provided under this section in an amount equal to the difference between the federal
- 78 reimbursement rates for a free meal and a reduced-price meal, as determined annually by
- 79 the United States Department of Agriculture.
- 80 (4) An LEA may not:
- 81 (a) publicly identify or stigmatize a student unable to pay for a meal; or
- 82 (b) require a student to perform chores to pay for a meal unless the requirement applies
- 83 equally to all students regardless of whether the student pays for the meal.
- 84 (5) Communications from an LEA, regarding a student's meal debt, shall be directed only to
- 85 the student's parent or guardian.

86 Section 3. **Effective Date.**

87 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.