

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: School Meals; Increasing State Funding for Reduced Price Meals

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Overview

The federal government provides substantial funding for school meals programs. The federal aid is based on the student's ability to pay, as measured by the student's family's level of income. For most schools, the federal government pays \$2.93 for each meal served to a student who qualifies for a free meal, \$2.53 for each meal served to a student who qualifies for a reduced-price school meal, and \$0.28 per meal for each fully paid school lunch.

Minnesota supplements the federal school lunch payments with an added amount of state aid, equal to 12.5 cents for each lunch served.

This bill increases the reimbursement rate for school lunches served to students who qualify for reduced price meals from 12.5 to 52.5 cents per lunch served and prohibits a school district from charging a lunch fee to a student who is eligible for free or reduced-price meals. The cost of this proposal is \$3.519 million in fiscal year 2015.

Section

- 1 School lunch aid computation.** Increases the state aid for each reduced-price school lunch served to a student from 12.5 cents to 52.5 cents per meal served.
- 2 No fees.** Prohibits a school district from charging a lunch fee to a student who is eligible for a free or reduced-price meal.
- 3 School lunch; appropriation.** Increases the fiscal year 2015 appropriation for state aid for school lunches by \$3.519 million and adjusts the base appropriations amounts to match the February 2014 forecast levels of spending.