

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2021 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2057

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BROWN, ROWE AND L. PACK

[Introduced February 10, 2021; Referred to the
Committee on Education then Finance]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
2 designated §18-5D-6, relating to establishing the Summer Feeding for All Program;
3 providing findings; directing a county-by-county assessment of nonschool day student
4 initiative; food insecurities; empowering county school boards to develop initiatives and
5 programs for feeding students in need during summer and other nonschool time periods;
6 providing county board reporting requirements to the Office of Child Nutrition; and directing
7 the Office of Child Nutrition to collect and distribute information regarding available food
8 resources.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 5D. WEST VIRGINIA FEED TO ACHIEVE ACT.

§18-5D-6. Summer Feeding for All.

1 (a) The Legislature finds and declares that:

2 (1) The Feed to Achieve initiative has successfully improved the availability and
3 awareness for the need to provide nutritious food to state students and the Shared Table Initiative
4 has facilitated a spirit of innovation and consciousness in our counties to find alternative ways to
5 feed children in need;

6 (2) A periodic assessment of the needs for county students and availability of county
7 resources is necessary to determine what type of resources are available and needed to reduce
8 food insecurity for students when they are not in school;

9 (3) That expansion of the Shared Table Initiative to include a program to encourage county
10 schools to locate, participate in, and initiate programs to provide meals during summers and non-
11 school-day times when some children may not have access to healthy meals could assist in
12 reducing food insecurity for thousands of children in this state, and therefore, creating a
13 mechanism that is not a directive from the Legislature upon county school boards, but rather an
14 authorization to use school resources to find innovative ways, within the means of the county
15 school systems, to assist the communities they serve, will provide a public benefit.

16 (b) Every county public school system shall conduct an annual countywide survey of
17 public-school students to determine their nonschool eating patterns and the availability of
18 nutritious food to them when schools are closed. The West Virginia Office of Child Nutrition will
19 assist and facilitate with this survey to determine the needs for supplemental food services in
20 every county.

21 (c) Each county board shall also collect and compile information regarding the availability
22 of food resources in the county during nonschool days and distribute this information to all
23 students. These resources may include any public, private, religious group, or charity that will
24 provide food to children with food insecurity.

25 (d) Each county school board may investigate and implement any program that may
26 facilitate this initiative including, but not limited to, entrepreneurship programs to foster innovation
27 in providing assistance, utilizing participation in programs as a positive discipline option, and
28 creating mentorship programs or other opportunities to participate in a nonschool student feeding
29 program.

30 (e) Each county school board shall provide, at a minimum, an annual countywide or a
31 coordinated regional training opportunity, with assistance from the West Virginia Office of Child
32 Nutrition, that ensures that any entity that potentially qualifies as a summer or nonschool-day
33 feeding site according to the county survey, is afforded the opportunity to receive training on
34 operation of a feeding site.

35 (f) Each county board shall provide its survey, a summary of its activities, and any findings
36 or recommendations the county school board has related thereto, to the West Virginia Office of
37 Child Nutrition at a date determined each year by that office.

38 (g) The West Virginia Office of Child Nutrition shall monitor these activities and share
39 between counties information about innovative and successful program initiatives around the
40 state to promote and facilitate the Summer Feeding for All program.

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NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to establish the Summer Feeding for All initiative that will encourage county school systems to look for innovative ways to provide assistance to students in need to access nutritious foods during summer break and other times when school is not in session. The bill requires each county school board to conduct an assessment of the availability of food to students to determine what food insecurities exist in the student population. The bill directs each county school board to compile and distribute a list of existing food providers in the community that will provide nutritious food to children with food insecurities on nonschool days. The bill directs the Office of Child Nutrition to help facilitate county school boards to coordinate and develop the public policy initiative of Feed to Achieve.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.