

* * *

H.(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Central Community School Board is hereby authorized to contract with a vendor to provide for the management for the school system's nutrition program or for a particular school's nutrition program. The school board may include provisions in the contract to train and schedule the school system's support employees for school cafeterias, to plan menus, to manage nutrition program budgets, to maintain inventory, to order supplies, or to oversee the daily operations and upkeep of one or more school cafeterias.

(2) If the school board enters into a contract with a vendor, as authorized by Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, the contract shall be consistent with requirements to receive federal funding pursuant to the National School Lunch Program or other federal nutrition programs, as determined by the state Department of Education.

* * *

§194. Administration of nutrition program; general powers of governing authorities of nutrition program providers; funds for privately supplied programs for profit prohibited; exceptions

* * *

B.(1) The state Department of Education, pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, may employ personnel and take other action it may deem necessary to provide for the establishment, maintenance, and expansion of any nutrition program and to direct the disbursement of federal and state funds in accordance with any applicable provisions of federal or state law.

(2) However, no state appropriated funds shall be disbursed for the support of any nutrition program which shall be used by any private person, enterprise, concern, or other entity for profit, regardless of any authority in federal or state law for contracting with such a private supplier or provider of nutrition programs, except

1 with regard to the following:

2 ~~(1)~~**(a)** The Child and Adult Care Food Program, as provided in regulations
3 issued by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

4 ~~(2)~~**(b)** Any elementary or secondary school operated by Louisiana State
5 University and Agricultural and Mechanical College or by Southern University and
6 Agricultural and Mechanical College.

7 **(c) Any elementary or secondary school operated by the Central**
8 **Community School Board.**

9 * * *

10 Section 2. It is the intention of the legislature to authorize the Central Community
11 School Board to contract for the management of the school system's nutrition program.
12 Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to require or mandate such contracts in any manner that
13 would violate the provisions of Article III, Section 12 of the Constitution of Louisiana which
14 prohibits the regulating or management of parish or city school systems.

15 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
16 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
17 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
18 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
19 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

DIGEST

SB 284 Original 2026 Regular Session Edmonds

Present law provides for meals for students in elementary and secondary schools and other aspects of a school nutrition program. Present law further provides that the Dept. of Education is to take actions to implement the nutrition programs and to disburse state and federal funds to the schools to operate the programs.

Present law prohibits disbursement of state appropriated funds for school nutrition programs to any private person or company. Present law provides exceptions for certain schools and programs that are allowed to contract with private persons or companies to operate the nutrition program, as follows:

- (1) The Child and Adult Care Food Program.

- (2) Any elementary or secondary school operated by Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College.
- (3) Any elementary or secondary school operated by Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College.

Proposed law retains present law and provides for an additional exception to allow the Central Community School Board to contract with a private entity to assist the school board in training and scheduling the school system's cafeteria employees or to assist the school board with other functions that are required to operate school cafeterias. Present law further requires that the contracts with private vendors be consistent with all requirements necessary to receive federal funding for nutrition programs, as determined by the state Dept. of Education.

Proposed law provides that the legislature's intention is to authorize the Central Community School Board to contract with private entities and not to require such contracts in any manner that would violate the La. Constitution Article III, §12 that prohibits the regulating or management of parish or city school systems.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:194(B); adds R.S. 17:66(H))