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))