
DIGEST

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K. Carter

HB No. 1212

Abstract: Permits certain local school boards to operate or provide for the operation of lunch departments on a profit basis when in the best interest of the school system and its students. Provides also that limitations on the disbursement of state funds for the support of any privately provided school lunch program operated for profit do not apply to these school boards.

Present law (R.S. 17:82) permits parish school boards to operate lunch departments on a nonprofit basis to provide meals for school children attending the public schools within their respective jurisdictions. Specifies that employees in these department shall not be entitled to tenure rights under any of the tenure laws of the public school system.

Proposed law additionally provides that a school board in a parish having a population of at least 475,000 persons according to the latest federal decennial census may operate or provide for the operation of its lunch department on a profit basis if deemed to be in the best interest of the school system and its students.

Proposed law otherwise retains present law except refers to city, parish, and other local public school boards rather than parish school boards and, relative to tenure rights, provides that employees in lunch department shall not be entitled to tenure rights under any tenure laws applicable to the public school system unless specifically provided for in such laws.

Present law (R.S. 17:194) specifies that no state funds shall be disbursed for the support of any school lunch 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 school lunch programs.

Proposed law adds provision specifying that this limitation in present law shall not be applicable to any city, parish, or other local public school board in a parish having a population of at least 475,000 persons according to the latest federal decennial census.

Present law authorizes the state education board to enter into agreements with any agency of the federal government, with any school board, or with any other agency or person. Proposed law retains present law except adds provision that the authority to enter into agreements is relative to school lunch programs.

Present law authorizes the state board to prescribe regulations, employ personnel, and take other action it deems necessary to provide for the establishment, maintenance, and expansion of any school lunch program and to direct the disbursement of federal and state funds in accordance with any applicable provisions of federal or state law. Present law permits the state board to give technical advice and assistance to any school board in connection with the establishment and operation of any school lunch program and assist in training program personnel. Provides that the state board and any school

board may accept any gift for use in connection with any school lunch program.

Proposed law retains present law except changes references from the State Board of Education to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and refers to city, parish, and other local public school boards rather than school boards.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:82 and 194)