

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to education; requiring equal treatment of students eligible for free
1.3 or reduced price meals; prohibiting certain collection activities; amending
1.4 Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 124D.111, by adding subdivisions.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 124D.111, is amended by adding a
1.7 subdivision to read:

1.8 Subd. 4. **Discrimination against children eligible for school lunch.** No school
1.9 district, charter school, nonpublic school, or other participant in the national school lunch
1.10 program that receives state funding under subdivision 1 may:

1.11 (1) physically segregate, discriminate against, or in any way stigmatize any child
1.12 eligible for a free or reduced price lunch;

1.13 (2) make any overt or distinguishable identification of a child eligible for free
1.14 or reduced price lunch through special lines, tickets, alternative meals, announced or
1.15 published lists of names, or any other publicly identifiable means; or

1.16 (3) deny lunch to a child eligible for reduced price lunch who lacks sufficient funds
1.17 or has unpaid lunch debts.

1.18 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2010.

1.19 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 124D.111, is amended by adding a
1.20 subdivision to read:

1.21 Subd. 5. **Collection of unpaid lunch debts.** (a) No entity attempting to collect
1.22 unpaid school lunch debts from households may:

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2.1 (1) take any action directed at a child in the household, including withholding
2.2 educational opportunities or engaging in any behavior prohibited under subdivision 4; or

2.3 (2) associate or contract with, or in any other way utilize or employ the services of,
2.4 a collection agency, as defined in section 332.31, subdivision 3, to attempt to collect
2.5 unpaid lunch debts from households.

2.6 (b) An entity collecting or attempting collection of unpaid school lunch debts from
2.7 households must comply with section 332.37.

2.8 (c) A household alleging violation by a school of section 332.37, has the rights
2.9 provided under section 332.39.

2.10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2010.