

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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SENATE BILL 487
Education/Higher Education Committee Substitute Adopted 5/6/19

Short Title: Student Meal Debt Policy.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 3, 2019

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT A POLICY TO
2 ENSURE THE UNIFORM ADMINISTRATION OF UNPAID MEAL CHARGES AND TO
3 PROVIDE SCHOOL LUNCHES AT NO COST FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN WHO
4 QUALIFY FOR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS AT SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE
5 NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM.
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7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-12 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

9 "(47) Duty to Ensure Uniform Administration of Unpaid Meal Charges. – The State
10 Board of Education shall adopt a policy to ensure the uniform administration
11 of unpaid meal charges in local school administrative units. At a minimum,
12 the policy shall guarantee that students are not prevented from receiving
13 nutritious meals because of an unpaid meal charge."

14 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
15 Public Instruction the sum of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) in recurring funds for the
16 2019-2020 fiscal year to be used to provide school lunches at no cost to students of all grade
17 levels qualifying for reduced-price meals in all schools participating in the National School
18 Lunch Program. If appropriated funds are insufficient to provide school lunches at no cost to
19 students qualifying for reduced-price meals, the Department of Public Instruction shall also use
20 any excess funds appropriated for the National School Breakfast Program for the purposes of this
21 section.

22 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
23 the 2019-2020 school year.



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