

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 577

S.P. 258

In Senate, February 25, 2025

**An Act to Address Student Hunger and Nutrition Through
Expanded Access to Free Milk in Schools**

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on February 19, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRS §6602-A** is enacted to read:

3 **§6602-A. Free Milk Fund**

4 **1. Fund established.** The Free Milk Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is
5 established in the department to issue grants to eligible school administrative units to
6 reimburse the cost of providing milk at no cost to students who do not receive a lunch
7 through a school food service program established in section 6602. The fund consists of
8 money received as appropriations, allocations and contributions from public and private
9 sources. The fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and
10 accounts. Interest earned by the fund must be credited to the fund. Any unexpended
11 balances remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year do not lapse and must be carried
12 forward to the next fiscal year.

13 For the purposes of this section, "eligible school administrative unit" means a school
14 administrative unit that participates in the National School Lunch Program under 7 Code
15 of Federal Regulations, Part 210 and that meets federal compliance requirements
16 established by that program.

17 **2. Rules.** The department shall adopt routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,
18 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A to carry out the purposes of the fund.

19 **SUMMARY**

20 This bill establishes the Free Milk Fund in the Department of Education, which the
21 department must use to issue grants to eligible school administrative units to reimburse the
22 cost of providing milk at no cost to students who do not receive a lunch through a school
23 food service program.