

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 776

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H.P. 501

House of Representatives, March 4, 2025

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**An Act to Provide Free School Lunches to Special Purpose Private  
Schools That Receive Students from the Public School System**

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Received by the Clerk of the House on February 26, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative O'HALLORAN of Brewer.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BUNKER of Farmington, DEBRITO of Waterville, DILL of Old Town, HENDERSON of Rumford, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, MONTELL of Gardiner, ROLLINS of Augusta, WEBB of Durham.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6602, sub-§1, ¶D,** as amended by PL 2021, c. 759, Pt. D,  
3 §2, is further amended to read:

4 D. A public school, a special purpose private school that receives publicly funded  
5 students or a private school approved for tuition purposes, as defined in section 1,  
6 subsection 23, that enrolls at least 60% publicly funded students as determined by the  
7 previous year's October and April average enrollment and participates in the National  
8 School Lunch Program in accordance with 7 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 210  
9 (2007) that serves lunch shall provide a student who is eligible for free and reduced-  
10 price meals under paragraph A a meal that meets the requirements of the federal  
11 National School Lunch Program set forth in 7 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 210  
12 (2019) at no cost to the student. The State shall provide to the public school, special  
13 purpose private school or private school approved for tuition purposes funding equal  
14 to the difference between the federal reimbursement for a free lunch and the federal  
15 reimbursement for a reduced-price lunch for each student eligible for a reduced-price  
16 lunch and receiving lunch.

17 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §6602, sub-§1, ¶I,** as amended by PL 2021, c. 759, Pt. D, §4,  
18 is further amended to read:

19 I. A public school, a special purpose private school that receives publicly funded  
20 students or a private school approved for tuition purposes, as defined in section 1,  
21 subsection 23, that enrolls at least 60% publicly funded students as determined by the  
22 previous year's October and April average enrollment and participates in the National  
23 School Lunch Program in accordance with 7 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 210  
24 (2007) that serves lunch shall provide a student who is ineligible for free or reduced-  
25 price meals under paragraph A a meal that meets the requirements of the federal  
26 National School Lunch Program set forth in 7 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 210  
27 (2019) at no cost to the student. The State shall provide to the public school, special  
28 purpose private school or private school approved for tuition purposes funding equal  
29 to the difference between the federal reimbursement for a free lunch and the full price  
30 of the lunch for each student ineligible for a free or reduced-price lunch and receiving  
31 lunch.

32 **SUMMARY**

33 This bill amends the laws governing school food service programs to provide free  
34 school lunches to special purpose private schools that receive publicly funded students and  
35 participate in the National School Lunch Program in accordance with 7 Code of Federal  
36 Regulations, Part 210 (2007).