

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 701

S.P. 214

In Senate, February 11, 2019

**An Act To Modernize the National School Lunch Program and the
School Breakfast Program**

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested 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 BELLOWS of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative KORNFIELD of Bangor and
Senators: BREEN of Cumberland, MILLETT of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington,
ROSEN of Hancock, Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, HICKMAN of Winthrop,
MORALES of South Portland, PERRY of Calais.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** this legislation requires the Department of Education to develop an
4 Internet-based application for free or reduced-price school meals and to make that
5 application available for use by August 1, 2019; and

6 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
7 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
8 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
9 therefore,

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

11 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6601-A,** as enacted by PL 2017, c. 238, §1, is amended to
12 read:

13 **§6601-A. Free or reduced-price school meals; Internet-based school meal**
14 **applications**

15 The department shall develop and ~~make information~~ available to public schools
16 ~~regarding an Internet-based applications for eligible students~~ application for free or
17 reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program under 7 Code of Federal
18 Regulations, Part 210 and the School Breakfast Program under 7 Code of Federal
19 Regulations, Part 220. A public school may make ~~an~~ the Internet-based application
20 developed by the department available for school meal applications. If a public school
21 implements ~~an~~ the Internet-based application process under this section, the public school
22 shall ~~make available a~~ continue to distribute paper application applications for school
23 meals to ~~any student, parent or legal guardian who requests one~~ all students.

24 **Sec. 2. Internet-based application development.** The Department of
25 Education shall make the Internet-based application for free or reduced-price school
26 meals under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6601-A available by August
27 1, 2019.

28 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
29 legislation takes effect when approved.

30 **SUMMARY**

31 Current law requires the Department of Education to make information available to
32 public schools regarding Internet-based applications for free or reduced-price meals under
33 the National School Lunch Program. This bill requires the department to develop and
34 make available to public schools a specific Internet-based application for the National
35 School Lunch Program as well as for the School Breakfast Program. A public school that
36 implements the Internet-based application process is required to continue to distribute
37 paper applications for school meals to all students.