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CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 12(EDC)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES DIBERT, Burke, Edgmon, Galvin, Himschoot

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to reduced-price meals in public schools; establishing the public school**
2 **reduced-price meal fund; relating to contributions from permanent fund dividends; and**
3 **providing for an effective date."**

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 * **Section 1.** AS 14.03 is amended by adding a new section to read:

6 **Sec. 14.03.128. Public school reduced-price meal fund.** (a) A school district
7 that participates in the national school lunch program may not charge a fee for a
8 reduced-price meal provided to a student who is eligible for the meal under the
9 program.

10 (b) The public school reduced-price meal fund is established as an account in
11 the general fund. The fund consists of money appropriated to the fund by the
12 legislature, including donations and interest earned on money in the fund.

13 (c) The department shall distribute money in the fund to each school district
14 that participates in the national school lunch program in an amount equal to the cost

1 the school district incurs through providing reduced-price meals to eligible students in
2 a fiscal year, minus the amount the school district receives from federal
3 reimbursements or other state aid for providing reduced-price meals for that fiscal
4 year. If insufficient funding is appropriated to the fund to fully compensate each
5 school district for the cost of providing reduced-price meals under this section, the
6 department shall distribute the funding pro rata to the school districts.

7 (d) The department may spend money appropriated to the fund for the
8 purposes of the fund without further appropriation. Money in the fund does not lapse.

9 (e) Nothing in this section creates a dedicated fund.

10 (f) In this section,

11 (1) "national school lunch program" means the federal program for
12 free or reduced-price meals under 42 U.S.C. 1751 - 1769j (National School Lunch
13 Act);

14 (2) "reduced-price meal" means a meal that a school district provides
15 at a reduced price under the national school lunch program.

16 * **Sec. 2.** AS 43.23.130(a) is amended to read:

17 (a) Notwithstanding AS 43.23.200, the Department of Revenue shall prepare
18 the electronic Alaska permanent fund dividend application to allow an applicant who
19 files electronically to direct that money be subtracted from the dividend payment and
20 contributed to **the public school reduced-price meal fund (AS 14.03.128)**, the crime
21 victim compensation fund (AS 18.67.162), the peace officer and firefighter survivors'
22 fund, or one or more of the educational organizations, community foundations, or
23 charitable organizations that appear on the contribution list contained in the
24 application. A contribution to **the public school reduced-price meal fund**, the crime
25 victim compensation fund, the peace officer and firefighter survivors' fund, or [TO] an
26 organization may be \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100, or more, in increments of \$50, up to the
27 total amount of the permanent fund dividend that the applicant is entitled to receive. If
28 the total amount of contributions elected by an applicant exceeds the amount of the
29 permanent fund dividend that the applicant is entitled to receive, contributions shall be
30 deducted from the dividend in the order of priority elected by the applicant on the
31 application until the entire amount of the dividend that the applicant is entitled to

1 receive is allocated for contribution. The electronic dividend application form must
2 include notice that seven percent of the money contributed will be used for
3 administrative costs incurred in implementing this section, and money from the
4 dividend fund will not be used for that purpose.

5 * **Sec. 3.** AS 43.23.130(b) is amended to read:

6 (b) The department shall list each educational organization, community
7 foundation, or charitable organization eligible under (c) and (d) of this section, each
8 university campus that applies under (l) of this section, **the public school reduced-**
9 **price meal fund,** the crime victim compensation fund, and the peace officer and
10 firefighter survivors' fund on the contribution list. The department shall maintain an
11 electronic database for the contribution list that is accessible to the public and that
12 permits searches by organization or fund name, geographic location, and type. The
13 department shall provide a statement of the contributions made by an individual that is
14 suitable for federal income tax purposes to each individual who elects to contribute
15 under (a) of this section.

16 * **Sec. 4.** AS 43.23.130(m) is amended to read:

17 (m) In addition to the application fee in (f) of this section, the department shall
18 withhold a coordination fee from each organization, foundation, or university campus
19 that receives contributions under this section in the immediately preceding dividend
20 year. The coordination fee for an organization, foundation, or university campus that
21 receives contributions under this section shall be seven percent of the amount of
22 contributions reported by the department under (j) of this section for the organization,
23 foundation, or university campus for the immediately preceding dividend year. The
24 coordination fee shall be separately accounted for under AS 37.05.142 and shall be
25 accounted for separately from the application fee collected under (f) of this section.
26 The annual estimated balance in the account maintained under AS 37.05.142 for
27 coordination fees collected under this subsection may be appropriated for costs of
28 administering this section. The department may not withhold a coordination fee for
29 contributions to **the public school reduced-price meal fund,** the crime victim
30 compensation fund, or the peace officer and firefighter survivors' fund.

31 * **Sec. 5.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2026.