

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Chair Tribal Affairs Committee
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House Education Committee
Joint Armed Services Committee

House Bill 12

Version T

March 4, 2026

Sectional Analysis

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

Section 1. Amends AS 14.03 to add a new section, 14.03.128. Public School Reduced-Price Meal Fund.

- (a) Mandates that school districts participating in the national school lunch program may not charge students who are eligible for reduced-price meals.
- (b) Establishes the school reduced-price meal fund as a general fund account.
- (c) Ensures that the Department of Education shall distribute fund money to each participating school district equal to the cost the district has incurred in providing reduced-price meals minus the other forms of federal or state aid that the district has received to pay for reduced-price meals, and ensures that if insufficient money exists in the fund to fully compensate school districts, the department is still required to distribute proportional funding.
- (d) Clarifies that the Department may spend appropriated funds without further appropriation and that money within the fund does not lapse.
- (e) Clarifies that this section does not create a dedicated fund.
- (f) Provides definitions.

Section 2. Amends AS 43.23.130(a) to allow applicants for the PFD to make voluntary contributions to the public school reduced-price meal fund.

Section 3. Amends AS 43.23.130(b) to ensure the Department of Revenue takes the necessary steps that a PFD-contributable fund requires.

Section 4. Amends AS 43.23.130(m) to clarify that the Department of Revenue may not withhold coordination fees for contributions to the public school reduced-price meal fund.

Section 5. Provides the effective date of July 1, 2026.