



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 961

H.P. 707

House of Representatives, March 9, 2021

An Act To Provide Equity in Access to Applications for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth.
Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin and
Representatives: PEBWORTH of Blue Hill, SALISBURY of Westbrook, TALBOT ROSS of
Portland, ZAGER of Portland, Senators: POULIOT of Kennebec, RAFFERTY of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6601-A**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 480, §1, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **§6601-A. Free or reduced-price school meals; Internet-based school meal**
5 **applications**

6 The department shall contract for the development and implementation of an Internet-
7 based application for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch
8 Program under 7 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 210 and the School Breakfast Program
9 under 7 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 220. The department shall make available to
10 public schools the Internet-based application for free or reduced-price meals developed
11 under this section on the department's publicly accessible website. The department shall
12 endeavor to provide the Internet-based application in various languages reflecting the
13 student population of public schools in the State. A public school may make the Internet-
14 based application available for school meal applications on the public school's publicly
15 accessible website. ~~If a public school implements the Internet-based application process~~
16 ~~under this section, the~~ All public school schools shall continue to distribute paper
17 applications for school meals to all students. A public school ~~implementing the~~
18 ~~Internet-based application~~ is solely responsible for processing that school's online
19 applications. Data submitted through the Internet-based application may not be visible to
20 the department and must be transmitted directly to the applicable public school.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill requires the Internet-based application for free or reduced-price meals
23 developed for the Department of Education to be made available on the department's
24 publicly accessible website. It also allows a public school to make the application available
25 on its publicly accessible website. It requires the department to endeavor to provide the
26 application in various languages reflecting the student populations of public schools in the
27 State. It requires all public schools to continue to distribute the paper application. It also
28 requires that data submitted through the Internet-based application not be visible to the
29 department and to be transmitted directly to the applicable public school.