

SENATE No. 210

To accompany the petition of Ralph C. Mahar for legislation relative to the expenditure of funds for the school lunch program. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 548 of the acts of 1948 is
2 hereby amended by inserting after section 2 the
3 following section:—

4 *Section 2A.* School committees may use therefor
5 funds disbursed to them under the provisions of this
6 act, gifts, and other funds received from sale of school
7 lunches under such programs. Such contributions
8 received in the form of money, together with fees
9 from sale of lunches and any allotments received
10 from the state under the provisions of this act for
11 said purposes, may be deposited with the treasurer
12 of such town and held as a separate account and
13 expended by said school committee without appro-
14 priation, notwithstanding the provisions of section
15 fifty-three of chapter forty-four of the General Laws.
16 Nothing in this act shall prevent cities or towns from

17 appropriating funds in addition to those provided
18 from other sources.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter 548 is hereby further
2 amended by adding at the end the following three
3 sections: —

4 *Section 3.* The office of school lunch programs,
5 with the approval of the commissioner, shall prescribe
6 regulations for the keeping of accounts and records
7 and the making of reports by or under the super-
8 vision of school committees. Such accounts and
9 records shall at all times be available for inspection
10 and audit by authorized officials and shall be preserved
11 for such period of time, not in excess of five years, as
12 the division may lawfully prescribe. The division
13 shall conduct or cause to be conducted such audits,
14 inspections and administrative reviews of accounts,
15 records and operations with respect to school lunch
16 programs as may be necessary to determine whether
17 its agreements with school committees and/or other
18 sponsors of school lunch programs and other regu-
19 lations made pursuant to this act are being complied
20 with, and to insure that school lunch programs are
21 effectively administered.

22 *Section 4.* The office of school lunch programs is
23 hereby authorized to the extent that funds are avail-
24 able for that purpose, and in co-operation with other
25 appropriate agencies and organizations, to conduct
26 studies as to the methods of improving and expanding
27 school lunch programs and promoting nutritional
28 education in the schools, to conduct appraisals of the
29 nutritive benefits of school lunch programs, and to
30 report its findings and recommendations from time
31 to time to the commissioner of education.

32 *Section 5.* Any school committee which operates
33 or provides for the operation of a school lunch program
34 in accordance with the provisions of this act, and
35 offers a lunch or lunches meeting the minimum nu-
36 tritional requirements prescribed by the commissioner
37 of education to all children attending said school,
38 at cost or at a reduced cost or without cost to children
39 who are determined by the local school authorities
40 to be unable to pay the full cost of the lunch, shall be
41 eligible to receive a reimbursement of not more than
42 five cents for each lunch served to the children at said
43 school. Such reimbursement shall be in addition to
44 any payment due under the provisions of the national
45 school lunch act. Such payments shall be made
46 upon condition that such dollar thereof will be matched
47 by one dollar on the part of said city or town. For
48 the purpose of determining whether the matching
49 requirements of this section have been met, only
50 the net deficit between funds appropriated by said
51 city or town and applicable to school lunches and
52 receipts to the general fund from the operation of
53 school lunches shall be considered to be matching
54 funds on the part of said city or town. Upon report
55 to the commissioner of education on such blanks and
56 in such form as he may prescribe, of any expenditure
57 hereunder, said commissioner shall, if he approves the
58 same, certify to the comptroller such payments as
59 are due, and the state treasurer shall pay the same.

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