

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133, February 18, 1970.

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:*

In an age of billion dollar agricultural surpluses, in a nation whose gross national product is approaching one trillion dollars, it is an anomaly that nine hundred public schools in Massachusetts do not have a first-class school lunch program.

What is even more disturbing is that the very schools that lack school lunch programs are the ones where the schoolchildren need such programs the most—in our cities, our disadvantaged areas, our low income neighborhoods. Today I submit legislation which will require that school lunch programs be made available in all public schools by September, 1974 for children who wish to utilize them.

The accompanying measure will make school lunch programs mandatory. But it will do more. It will permit entirely new approaches to providing food services in schools. It will authorize the state department of education, through its bureau of school food services and nutrition education, to establish and operate centers for the preparation of school lunches which will serve many cities and towns from a single facility. This means more efficient and economical school lunch programs.

This legislation makes demands on our cities and towns. In doing so, it recognizes the obligation of the commonwealth to assist our cities and towns in meeting those demands. It makes expenditures for the operation of school lunch programs re-imbursable under the school aid formula, and it makes expenditures for the construction of free-standing school food service facilities eligible for financial aid under the school building assistance program.

We know that a child's educational achievement can be directly related to his health and physical well-being. We know that the

child who suffers from an inadequate diet will lag behind in school, no matter how excellent his teachers or how modern the curriculum. Yet, for all this, we know that thousands of Massachusetts schoolchildren do not receive proper nutrition. Ours is a society which has virtually boundless resources but where all too many fail to share in the bounty of our abundance. Let us act to direct our resources where they will serve the greatest need. I urge your approval of the accompanying legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCIS W. SARGENT,  
*Acting Governor of the Commonwealth.*

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy.

AN ACT REQUIRING THAT SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES BE MADE AVAILABLE  
IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

*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. Section 1G of chapter 15 of the General Laws,  
2 as amended by chapter 837 of the acts of 1969, is hereby  
3 amended by inserting after the fourteenth paragraph of said  
4 section a new paragraph as follows:—

5 The board shall establish minimum nutritional standards  
6 and regulations for all school food services and shall require  
7 all public schools to make school food services available to  
8 children no later than September nineteen hundred and  
9 seventy-four, on such basis and at such charges as the board  
10 may specify.

1 SECTION 2. Section 2 of chapter 70 of the General Laws is  
2 hereby amended by striking out paragraph (c) of said  
3 section, as amended by section 1 of chapter 791 of the acts of  
4 1967, and inserting in place thereof the following para-  
5 graph:—

6 (c) "Reimbursable expenditures", the total amount ex-  
7 pended by a city or town during a fiscal year for the support  
8 of public schools during said year exclusive of expenditures  
9 for transportation, for food for school food service programs,  
10 for special classes for the physically handicapped and the  
11 mentally retarded, for programs of vocational education as  
12 provided in chapter seventy-four and for capital outlays,  
13 after deducting therefrom any receipts for tuition, receipts  
14 from the federal government, the proceeds of any invested  
15 funds, and grants, gifts and receipts from any other source, to  
16 the extent that such receipts are applicable to such expendi-  
17 tures. The commissioner of education may, by regulation,  
18 further define the expenditures and receipts that may be  
19 included hereunder.

1 SECTION 3. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by striking section 72 of said chapter and substi-  
3 tuting therefor the following new section:—

4 *Section 72.* The school committee shall make school food  
5 services available at all school buildings under its jurisdiction  
6 on such basis and at such charges as the board of education  
7 may specify under the provisions of section one G of chapter  
8 fifteen. Nothing in this section shall preclude any school  
9 committee from providing food services to children at a lesser  
10 price or free.

1 SECTION 4. Chapter 645 of the acts of 1948, as most  
2 recently amended by chapter 904 of the acts of 1969 is hereby  
3 further amended by striking out the first sentence under the  
4 definition of "Approved school project" and inserting in place  
5 thereof the following sentence:—"Approved school project"  
6 shall mean any project for the construction or enlargement of  
7 a regional, consolidated or county agricultural school, or of  
8 any public schoolhouse in any city or town, or of any central  
9 food production facility for the purpose of preparing school  
10 lunches for distribution to any schools in a city, town, county  
11 or regional school district, and shall include the original  
12 equipment and furnishings, whether movable or built in, to  
13 complete said project, the contract or contracts for which  
14 shall have been awarded on or after January first, nineteen  
15 hundred and forty-six, by any city, town, county or regional  
16 school building committee, which has been approved by the  
17 commission for the purposes of sections seven through nine,  
18 inclusive.

1 SECTION 5. Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter six  
2 hundred and twenty-two of the acts of nineteen hundred and  
3 fifty-one or chapter four hundred and thirty-five of the acts  
4 of nineteen hundred and fifty-three or any other acts to the  
5 contrary, any vacancy which occurs in the position of direc-  
6 tor, assistant director, senior supervisor in education, super-  
7 visor in education, or assistant supervisor in education in the  
8 bureau of nutrition education and school food services in the  
9 department of education after the effective date of this act

10 shall not be filled under the provisions of chapter thirty-one  
11 but shall be filled by the board of education on recommenda-  
12 tion of the commissioner of education.

1 SECTION 6. Chapter 548 of the acts of 1948, as most  
2 recently amended by chapter 650 of the acts of 1969, is  
3 hereby further amended by adding after section ten of said  
4 chapter five hundred and forty-eight a new section as fol-  
5 lows:—

6 *Section 11.* The bureau of nutrition education and school  
7 food services may contract with cities, towns and regional  
8 school districts for the establishment and operation of  
9 regional food service production centers for the purpose of  
10 providing school food services more economically than such  
11 services could be provided by a city, town or regional school  
12 district acting alone, provided that federal funds are available  
13 to meet all or a portion of the cost of constructing, equipping  
14 or operating such centers. The bureau may also contract with  
15 private food service companies on behalf of cities, towns and  
16 regional school districts, if so requested by and at the expense  
17 of such cities, towns and regional school districts, to provide  
18 food services authorized under the provisions of this act and  
19 chapter seven hundred and three of the acts of nineteen  
20 hundred and sixty-nine to participating non-profit public or  
21 private schools, child care centers, and community centers.  
22 Payments by cities, towns, and regional school districts and  
23 funds received from the federal government in connection  
24 with contracts made under the provisions of this section shall  
25 be paid into the state treasury, maintained as a separate  
26 account, and shall not be disbursed without authorization of  
27 the commissioner of education.

1 SECTION 7. Section 6 of chapter 548 of the acts of 1948, as  
2 most recently amended by chapter 650 of the acts of 1969, is  
3 hereby further amended by adding at the end of said section  
4 a new paragraph as follows:—

5 The commissioner of education is hereby further autho-  
6 rized to reimburse, from such funds as may be appropriated  
7 for the purpose of providing free lunches and breakfasts to

8 children, sponsors of non-profit school food service programs  
9 to the extent that federal funds apportioned to the common-  
10 wealth for the purpose of providing free meals to children are  
11 insufficient to cover the average state-wide cost of such free  
12 meals as determined by the bureau of nutrition education and  
13 school food services. To the extent that funds are available,  
14 free meals shall be provided to all children from families  
15 receiving public assistance and to all children from families  
16 whose net incomes and assets are comparable to those of  
17 families of like size receiving public assistance and who are  
18 determined by local school authorities to be in need of free  
19 meals.

1 SECTION 8. Section three of this act shall take effect on  
2 September first, nineteen hundred and seventy-four.

The first part of the report deals with the general situation in the country. It is noted that the economy is still in a state of depression, and that the government is facing a serious financial crisis. The report also discusses the social conditions, which are described as being very poor. The government is urged to take immediate steps to improve the situation.

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The second part of the report deals with the specific measures that have been taken by the government. It is noted that the government has introduced a number of measures to improve the economy, but that these measures have not yet had the desired effect. The report also discusses the government's plans for the future.

The third part of the report deals with the recommendations of the committee. It is recommended that the government should take a number of steps to improve the economy, including the introduction of a new tax system, the improvement of the public services, and the improvement of the social conditions. The committee also recommends that the government should take steps to improve the financial situation.

The fourth part of the report deals with the conclusions of the committee. It is concluded that the government has not yet taken the necessary steps to improve the economy, and that the situation is still very serious. The committee urges the government to take immediate action to improve the situation.

The first part of the report is devoted to a general  
 description of the country and its resources. It  
 is followed by a detailed account of the  
 various industries and occupations of the  
 people. The report then proceeds to a  
 description of the climate and the  
 various diseases which are prevalent in  
 the country. It concludes with a  
 summary of the principal facts and  
 observations which have been made  
 during the course of the expedition.

The second part of the report is devoted to a  
 description of the various tribes and  
 nations which inhabit the country. It  
 is followed by a detailed account of the  
 customs and manners of the people.

The third part of the report is devoted to a  
 description of the various minerals and  
 fossils which have been discovered in  
 the country. It is followed by a  
 detailed account of the various  
 plants and animals which are found  
 in the country. The report then  
 proceeds to a description of the  
 various navigable rivers and  
 harbors of the country. It  
 concludes with a summary of the  
 principal facts and observations  
 which have been made during the  
 course of the expedition.

The fourth part of the report is devoted to a  
 description of the various maps and  
 charts which have been made of the  
 country. It is followed by a  
 detailed account of the various  
 instruments and apparatus which have  
 been used in the course of the  
 expedition.