

SENATE No. 261

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sal N. DiDomenico

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to universal school meals.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | |
|----------------------------|---|------------------|
| <i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i> | <i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i> | |
| <i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i> | <i>7th Middlesex</i> | <i>1/23/2023</i> |
| <i>Hannah Kane</i> | <i>11th Worcester</i> | <i>1/24/2023</i> |
| <i>Michael D. Brady</i> | <i>Second Plymouth and Norfolk</i> | <i>1/24/2023</i> |
| <i>Nick Collins</i> | <i>First Suffolk</i> | <i>1/24/2023</i> |
| <i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i> | <i>Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester</i> | <i>1/25/2023</i> |
| <i>Brian W. Murray</i> | <i>10th Worcester</i> | <i>1/25/2023</i> |
| <i>Joanne M. Comerford</i> | <i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i> | <i>1/25/2023</i> |
| <i>Paul W. Mark</i> | <i>Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire</i> | <i>1/25/2023</i> |
| <i>Michael J. Soter</i> | <i>8th Worcester</i> | <i>1/27/2023</i> |
| <i>Manny Cruz</i> | <i>7th Essex</i> | <i>1/27/2023</i> |
| <i>Jason M. Lewis</i> | <i>Fifth Middlesex</i> | <i>1/27/2023</i> |
| <i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i> | <i>Second Middlesex</i> | <i>1/27/2023</i> |
| <i>Danillo A. Sena</i> | <i>37th Middlesex</i> | <i>1/27/2023</i> |
| <i>Robyn K. Kennedy</i> | <i>First Worcester</i> | <i>1/27/2023</i> |
| <i>Mathew J. Muratore</i> | <i>1st Plymouth</i> | <i>1/27/2023</i> |
| <i>Anne M. Gobi</i> | <i>Worcester and Hampshire</i> | <i>1/27/2023</i> |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------|
| <i>Sean Garballey</i> | <i>23rd Middlesex</i> | <i>1/27/2023</i> |
| <i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i> | <i>21st Middlesex</i> | <i>1/30/2023</i> |
| <i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i> | <i>13th Middlesex</i> | <i>1/30/2023</i> |
| <i>John F. Keenan</i> | <i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i> | <i>1/30/2023</i> |
| <i>Walter F. Timilty</i> | <i>Norfolk, Plymouth and Bristol</i> | <i>1/31/2023</i> |
| <i>Jessica Ann Giannino</i> | <i>16th Suffolk</i> | <i>1/31/2023</i> |
| <i>Vanna Howard</i> | <i>17th Middlesex</i> | <i>2/1/2023</i> |
| <i>Mark C. Montigny</i> | <i>Second Bristol and Plymouth</i> | <i>2/1/2023</i> |
| <i>Susan Williams Gifford</i> | <i>2nd Plymouth</i> | <i>2/2/2023</i> |
| <i>Michael O. Moore</i> | <i>Second Worcester</i> | <i>2/2/2023</i> |
| <i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i> | <i>First Plymouth and Norfolk</i> | <i>2/2/2023</i> |
| <i>Lydia Edwards</i> | <i>Third Suffolk</i> | <i>2/6/2023</i> |
| <i>Susannah M. Whipps</i> | <i>2nd Franklin</i> | <i>2/6/2023</i> |
| <i>James B. Eldridge</i> | <i>Middlesex and Worcester</i> | <i>2/10/2023</i> |
| <i>Rodney M. Elliott</i> | <i>16th Middlesex</i> | <i>2/14/2023</i> |
| <i>Adam Gomez</i> | <i>Hampden</i> | <i>2/23/2023</i> |
| <i>Carlos González</i> | <i>10th Hampden</i> | <i>3/1/2023</i> |
| <i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i> | <i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i> | <i>3/1/2023</i> |
| <i>Paul R. Feeney</i> | <i>Bristol and Norfolk</i> | <i>3/7/2023</i> |
| <i>Julian Cyr</i> | <i>Cape and Islands</i> | <i>3/9/2023</i> |
| <i>Michael F. Rush</i> | <i>Norfolk and Suffolk</i> | <i>3/14/2023</i> |
| <i>Brendan P. Crighton</i> | <i>Third Essex</i> | <i>3/15/2023</i> |
| <i>John C. Velis</i> | <i>Hampden and Hampshire</i> | <i>4/12/2023</i> |
| <i>Joan B. Lovely</i> | <i>Second Essex</i> | <i>4/18/2023</i> |
| <i>Edward J. Kennedy</i> | <i>First Middlesex</i> | <i>5/1/2023</i> |
| <i>Bruce E. Tarr</i> | <i>First Essex and Middlesex</i> | <i>8/9/2023</i> |

SENATE No. 261

By Mr. DiDomenico, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 261) of Sal N. DiDomenico, Jack Patrick Lewis, Hannah Kane, Michael D. Brady and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to universal school meals. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 314 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to universal school meals.

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 1C of Chapter 69 of the General Law, as appearing in the 2020
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the third paragraph the following:- “The
3 board shall require all schools providing school lunch as provided in the National School Lunch
4 Act as amended or school breakfast as provided in the National Child Nutrition Act as amended,
5 to make breakfast and lunch available at no charge to each attending student. Schools shall
6 maximize access to federal funds for the cost of school breakfast and lunch programs by
7 adopting the federal Community Eligibility Provision, Provision 2, or other provisions under
8 these acts.

9 To the extent that costs are not reimbursed through federal funds the cost of making
10 available school lunches and breakfasts shall be borne by the department of elementary and

11 secondary education. The department shall reimburse the difference between the amount paid by
12 the United States Department of Agriculture and the free rate as set annually by the United States
13 Secretary of Agriculture under 42 U.S.C. 1759a for each school.

14 The department, in consultation with the department of transitional assistance, shall
15 promulgate regulations for schools to promote the supplemental nutrition assistance program to
16 families by either providing application assistance or a direct referral to an outreach partner
17 identified by the department of transitional assistance or department of elementary and secondary
18 education.”

19 SECTION 2. Sections under this act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.