

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael S. Day

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 healthy school lunches.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Michael S. Day</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>	<i>1/13/2025</i>

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 451 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act relative to healthy school lunches.

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

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

3 SECTION 1. Chapter 6 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is
4 hereby amended by inserting after section 15ZZZZZZ, the following section:-

5 Section 15AAAAAAA. The governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting apart
6 March 21 as Massachusetts Child Nutrition Day and recommending that the day be observed in
7 an appropriate manner by the people.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting, after
9 section 99, the following new section:-

10 Section 100. (a) The purpose of this section is to ensure that the students of the
11 Commonwealth are appropriately nourished in order to support a healthier, livable and more
12 equitable future for all.

13 (b) For the purposes of this section, the following words shall have the following
14 meanings:-

15 (i) food service management company is defined as a commercial enterprise or a
16 nonprofit organization which is or may be contracted with by the school food authority to
17 manage any aspect of the school food service

18 (ii) entrée is defined as the meat/meat alternate category within the USDA's Federal
19 Nutrition Standards

20 (iii) "Fiber-rich" is defined as an entrée item that contains at least 14 g of fiber per
21 1000kcal from whole food sources such as whole grains, legumes, beans, pulses, fruits, and
22 vegetables

23 (iv) "Reimbursable meal" is any meal that meets the United States Department of
24 Agriculture (USDA) National School Lunch Program nutritional requirements for federal
25 reimbursement at the annual allotted rate of any of the following: (a) free lunch; (b) reduced-
26 price lunch; or (c) paid lunch

27 (v) "ultra-processed food" is defined as industrial formulations of food substances
28 never or rarely used in kitchens (such as high-fructose corn syrup, hydrogenated or interesterified
29 oils, and hydrolysed proteins), or classes of additives designed to make the final product
30 palatable, appealing, or preservable (such as flavours, flavour enhancers, colours, emulsifiers,

31 emulsifying salts, sweeteners, thickeners, nitrates, nitrites, preservatives, and anti-foaming,
32 bulking, carbonating, foaming, gelling and glazing agents)

33 (c) Any food service management company selling food to Massachusetts public schools
34 for our children to consume shall ensure that at least 50% of the entrées sold and served for lunch
35 within school hours in schools, school districts, or other entities over the course of each week are
36 healthy foods containing whole grains, vegetables, fruits, legumes and other fiber-rich proteins
37 as part of a reimbursable meal offering within the federal National School Lunch Program.

38 (d) No food service provider may sell or serve in Massachusetts public schools, school
39 districts, or other entities more than 20% of entrée items that meet one or more of the following:
40 qualify as ultra-processed; have a nutritional composition that includes more than 30 milligrams
41 of cholesterol more than 5% of the entrées' total calories come from saturated fat as part of a
42 weekly reimbursable meal offering within the federal National School Lunch

43 (e) Each food service provider selling food to Massachusetts public schools for school
44 children to consume, shall keep itemized nutrition data that is made publicly available on a
45 monthly basis to demonstrate compliance with this statute.

46 (f) Each food service management company will have a phase in period of three years
47 following the initial date of their most recent contract with their respective school food authority
48 or by the first day of the school calendar year 2033-2034, whichever comes first.