

Jason Glover

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 224 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Rep. Ingram

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Re-serving time- and temperature-controlled food in schools

State & Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill permits schools that operate school food service programs to re-serve certain time- and temperature-controlled food items that were served or sold to students but were not used or opened. There appears to be no direct fiscal effect on public districts or schools that opt to do so.
- The bill will increase the administrative workload of the Department of Health to adopt rules necessary to comply with the bill's provisions.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill permits schools that operate school food service programs to re-serve time- and temperature-controlled food (TTCF) items, such as milk and other dairy products, that were served or sold to students but not used or opened. In order to be re-served, the TTCF item must be unused and returned unopened, undamaged, and in the original sealed packaging, and must be returned to an employee of the school, or a designated area monitored by an employee of the school, prior to when the student to which the food item was originally served leaves the area used to serve students meals.

Under current Ohio Department of Health (ODH) rules, only non-TTCF items may be re-served under certain conditions. In an effort to reduce food waste, some Ohio schools oversee "share tables," on which non-TTCF items that are served to students but not consumed or opened are returned and made available at no charge for students who may want additional helpings (who likely would not have purchased the items otherwise). A school that chooses to re-serve TTCF items under the bill would likely have them placed in a cooler, refrigerator, or ice bath.

There appears to be no direct fiscal effect on public districts or schools that opt to re-serve TTCF items, as the U.S. Department of Agriculture requires schools participating in school food service programs to provide reimbursable meals that meet specific meal pattern requirements with respect to, among other items, the amount of food in and components of meals. That is, a district or school's food costs and food service revenues are unlikely to change as a result of the bill. The bill also requires ODH, in consultation with the State Board of Education, to modify its existing rules regarding the re-serving of TTCF items to comply with the bill's provisions, which will increase ODH's administrative workload.

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