152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REVISED FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**HOUSE BILL NO. 125**
SPONSOR:	**Representative S. Moore**
DESCRIPTION:	**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS.**

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor, and 30 days after notice of appropriated funds.

2. This Act requires all schools to offer all students free breakfast and lunch every school day. This Act requires that the Department of Education reimburse schools for the difference between paid or reduced meals, and free meals. Per the Department, there are many students who already qualify for free and reduced meals through continuing federal programs.

3. Upon enactment, one breakfast for one student is estimated to cost the State between $0.30 - $2.35 depending on the need level of the school. There is no cost to the State for federally reimbursed free lunches. Approximately 10,435,690 breakfasts are served in Delaware schools each year.

4. Upon enactment, one lunch for one student is estimated to cost the State between $0.40 - $3.85. There is no cost to the State for federally reimbursed free lunches. Approximately 18,268,270 lunches are served in Delaware schools each year.

5. Expanded free meal eligibility may result in increased utilization of school-provided meals. Along with this increase, it is assumed that there may be increased capital requests related to food service. These needs may include larger kitchens, additional kitchen equipment, expanded storage space, etc. Because the impact of increased utilization on the capacity of current food service areas is unknown, the associated capital costs are indeterminable.

6. Costs per meal have been adjusted based on actual reimbursements collected. Overall meal costs are assumed to increase at an annual rate of 2.8%.

7. Overall meals served are assumed to increase at an annual rate of 2.0%.

Cost:

	Breakfast Cost	**Lunch Cost**	**Total Cost**
Fiscal Year 2025:	$8,475,484	$30,390,665	$38,866,149
Fiscal Year 2026:	$8,806,214	$31,858,917	$40,665,131
Fiscal Year 2027:	$9,184,993	$33,373,744	$42,558,736

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Office of the Controller General