

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section  
5 2-3.204 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.204 new)

7 Sec. 2-3.204. Statewide master contract for prepackaged  
8 meals.

9 (a) Throughout the State, students depend on schools to  
10 provide nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free school  
11 lunches each day. The General Assembly intends for school  
12 districts to provide lunch options that satisfy religious  
13 dietary requirements to the extent practicable.

14 (b) In this Section, "religious dietary food option" means  
15 meals that meet specific foods and food preparation techniques  
16 that satisfy religious dietary requirements.

17 (c) This Section is subject to appropriation, including  
18 funding for any administrative costs reasonably incurred by  
19 the State Board of Education in the administration of this  
20 Section.

21 (d) Upon the execution of one or more statewide master  
22 contracts entered into under subsection (g) and annually  
23 thereafter, the State Board of Education shall notify school

1 districts of any prepackaged meal options, including, but not  
2 limited to, halal and kosher food options, available for  
3 purchase under a statewide master contract for the upcoming  
4 school year. A school district shall adopt procedures  
5 regarding ordering, preparing, and serving prepackaged meal  
6 options offered under a statewide master contract.

7 A school district may not be charged more than the federal  
8 free rate of reimbursement for any meal offered under a  
9 statewide master contract. Any meal offered under a statewide  
10 master contract shall be eligible for and cost no more than the  
11 federal free rate of reimbursement.

12 (e) All meal options available under a statewide master  
13 contract under subsection (g) must meet the federal  
14 nutritional standards set under the federal Richard B. Russell  
15 National School Lunch Act. Any meal offered under a statewide  
16 master contract under subsection (g) may not require a school  
17 district to purchase any special or additional kitchen  
18 preparation equipment or storage equipment and may not require  
19 either any specialized staff, other than those staff members  
20 who are currently available in a school, or any special  
21 certifications.

22 (f) Any vendor offering halal food products to a school  
23 district under a statewide master contract under subsection  
24 (g) shall certify that the food or food product is halal and  
25 that the vendor is in compliance with the Halal Food Act. Any  
26 vendor offering kosher food products to a school district

1 under a statewide master contract under subsection (g) shall  
2 certify that the food or food product is kosher and that the  
3 vendor is in compliance with the Kosher Food Act. A school  
4 district and the State Board of Education may rely upon these  
5 certifications.

6 (g) The State Board of Education shall enter into one or  
7 more statewide master contracts with a vendor or vendors for  
8 prepackaged meals that meet the requirements of this Section  
9 for the purpose of providing options to school districts  
10 statewide to purchase religious dietary food options under  
11 this Section. The State Board of Education may enter into as  
12 many contracts as needed in order to provide access for school  
13 districts statewide.

14 Each statewide master contract must include packaged meal  
15 delivery directly to any requesting school in this State at a  
16 uniform delivery cost, regardless of the school's location.

17 The State Board of Education shall notify all school  
18 districts of the award of a statewide master contract as  
19 required in subsection (c) of Section 10-20.21 of this Code.  
20 No later than 60 days after receiving notice, a school  
21 district may purchase prepackaged meals from the contracted  
22 vendor.

23 Section 10. The University of Illinois Hospital Act is  
24 amended by adding Section 8j as follows:

1 (110 ILCS 330/8j new)

2 Sec. 8j. Religious dietary food options.

3 (a) In this Section, "religious dietary food options"  
4 means meals that meet specific foods and food preparation  
5 techniques that satisfy religious dietary requirements.

6 (b) The University of Illinois Hospital shall offer, upon  
7 request provided with reasonable notice, at the University of  
8 Illinois Hospital, religious dietary food options that comply  
9 with federal and State nutritional guidelines. After an  
10 individual submits a request for a religious dietary food  
11 option, the University of Illinois Hospital shall make  
12 accommodations for the request as soon as the University of  
13 Illinois Hospital is able to provide the meals.

14 (c) The provisions of this Section shall not infringe upon  
15 or affect any obligation in a contract entered into and in  
16 effect on or before the effective date of this amendatory Act  
17 of the 103rd General Assembly.

18 Section 15. The Halal Food Act is amended by adding  
19 Section 25 as follows:

20 (410 ILCS 637/25 new)

21 Sec. 25. State facility halal food products.

22 (a) In this Section, "State-owned or State-operated  
23 facility" means either of the following:

24 (1) A hospital that is organized under the University

1 of Illinois Hospital Act.

2 (2) A penal institution, as that term is defined under  
3 Section 2-14 of the Criminal Code of 2012, that is owned or  
4 operated by the State.

5 (b) Any halal food product offered by a State-owned or  
6 State-operated facility shall be purchased from a  
7 halal-certified vendor. Any person, organization, or vendor  
8 falsely representing a food product it provides as halal or  
9 falsely representing itself as a halal-certified vendor is  
10 subject to penalties under this Act.

11 (c) The provisions of this Section shall not infringe upon  
12 or affect any obligation in a contract entered into and in  
13 effect on or before the effective date of this amendatory Act  
14 of the 103rd General Assembly.

15 Section 20. The Kosher Food Act is amended by adding  
16 Sections 0.05 and 1.5 and by changing Section 2 as follows:

17 (410 ILCS 645/0.05 new)

18 Sec. 0.05. Definition. In this Act, "kosher" means  
19 supervised, prepared under, and maintained in strict  
20 compliance with the laws and customs of the Jewish religion,  
21 including, but not limited to, the laws and customs of  
22 shechita requiring the slaughter of animals according to  
23 appropriate Jewish law, and in compliance with the strictest  
24 standards of Jewish law as expressed by reliable, recognized

1 Jewish entities and Jewish rabbis.

2 (410 ILCS 645/1.5 new)

3 Sec. 1.5. State facility kosher food products.

4 (a) In this Section, "State-owned or State-operated  
5 facility" means either of the following:

6 (1) A hospital that is organized under the University  
7 of Illinois Hospital Act.

8 (2) A penal institution, as that term is defined under  
9 Section 2-14 of the Criminal Code of 2012, that is owned or  
10 operated by the State.

11 (b) Any kosher food product offered by a State-owned or  
12 State-operated facility shall be purchased from a  
13 kosher-certified vendor. Any person, organization, or vendor  
14 falsely representing a food product it provides as kosher or  
15 falsely representing itself as a kosher-certified vendor is  
16 subject to penalties under Section 2 of this Act.

17 (c) The provisions of this Section shall not infringe upon  
18 or affect any obligation in a contract entered into and in  
19 effect on or before the effective date of this amendatory Act  
20 of the 103rd General Assembly.

21 (410 ILCS 645/2) (from Ch. 56 1/2, par. 288.2)

22 Sec. 2. Any person convicted of violating Section 1 or 1.5  
23 of this Act, shall for the first offense, be guilty of a Class  
24 C misdemeanor and for the second and each subsequent offense

1 shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

2 (Source: P.A. 77-2510.)

3 Section 25. The Unified Code of Corrections is amended by  
4 adding Section 3-7-9 as follows:

5 (730 ILCS 5/3-7-9 new)

6 Sec. 3-7-9. Religious dietary food options.

7 (a) In this Section, "religious dietary food options"  
8 means meals that meet specific foods and food preparation  
9 techniques that satisfy religious dietary requirements.

10 (b) Any Department of Corrections facility that provides  
11 food services or cafeteria services for which food products  
12 are provided or offered for sale shall also offer, upon  
13 request provided with reasonable notice, religious dietary  
14 food options that comply with federal and State nutritional  
15 guidelines at the Department of Corrections facility. After an  
16 individual submits a request for a religious dietary food  
17 option, the Department of Corrections facility shall make  
18 accommodations for the request as soon as the Department of  
19 Corrections facility is able to provide the meals.

20 (c) The provisions of this Section shall not infringe upon  
21 or affect any obligation in a contract entered into and in  
22 effect on or before the effective date of this amendatory Act  
23 of the 103rd General Assembly.

24 (d) Nothing in this Section is intended to expand any

1 Department of Corrections facility's obligations beyond that  
2 required under federal law.

3 Section 97. Severability. The provisions of this Act are  
4 severable under Section 1.31 of the Statute on Statutes.

5 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect June 1,  
6 2024.