



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4240

by Rep. Jed Davis

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the College Meal Plan Medical Exemption Act. Allows a student to submit to a postsecondary institution a medical exemption statement from a medical provider indicating that the student has a medical condition, allergy, dietary restriction, or other health-related need inconsistent with participation in a mandatory meal plan. Sets forth provisions concerning the submission of the medical exemption. Provides that a student who submits a medical exemption may not be charged any portion of a mandatory meal plan. Prohibits an institution from imposing other requirements, charges, or fees. Allows the student to voluntarily purchase an optional meal plan if offered by the institution. Sets forth certain housing protections, and prohibits certain institutional practices. Requires each institution to publish its medical exemption process prominently on its website; sets forth what information must be published. Provides for refunds and penalties for violations of the Act. Allows the Board of Higher Education to adopt rules. Contains a severability clause. Effective June 1, 2027.

LRB104 16700 LNS 30104 b

STATE MANDATES  
ACT MAY REQUIRE  
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 College Meal Plan Medical Exemption Act.

6 Section 5. Purpose. The purpose of this Act is to protect  
7 students from mandatory meal plan charges if a medical  
8 condition prevents safe participation in a college or  
9 university meal program. This Act ensures full exemption from  
10 such charges and prohibits postsecondary institutions from  
11 imposing additional fees, housing surcharges, or other  
12 financial conditions to circumvent the exemption.

13 Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

14 "Institution" means a public or private college,  
15 university, or other postsecondary institution operating in  
16 this State that requires a meal plan for some or all of its  
17 residential students.

18 "Mandatory meal plan" means a meal plan required as a  
19 condition of enrollment, housing, or participation in campus  
20 residential life, regardless of label, pricing tier, or  
21 structure.

22 "Medical exemption" means a written statement from a

1 medical provider indicating that a student has a medical  
2 condition, allergy, dietary restriction, or other  
3 health-related need that is inconsistent with participation in  
4 a mandatory meal plan.

5 "Medical provider" means a licensed physician, physician  
6 assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse.

7 "Student" means an individual subject to a mandatory meal  
8 plan at an institution.

9 Section 15. Submission of medical exemption.

10 (a) An institution shall process a student's medical  
11 exemption within 10 business days after submission of the  
12 medical exemption to the institution.

13 (b) A medical exemption may not be denied, limited, or  
14 conditioned by an institution.

15 (c) An institution may not request that additional  
16 documentation be submitted beyond the medical exemption  
17 submission.

18 (d) A submitted medical exemption remains valid for one  
19 academic year, unless the medical provider indicates that the  
20 medical exemption is permanent.

21 Section 20. Full exemption from charges; voluntary  
22 purchase.

23 (a) A student who submits a medical exemption may not be  
24 charged any portion of a mandatory meal plan.

1 (b) An institution may not impose any of the following on a  
2 student who submits a medical exemption:

3 (1) Minimum meal requirements.

4 (2) Partial or prorated meal plan charges.

5 (3) Administrative fees.

6 (4) Access fees.

7 (5) Service fees.

8 (6) Wellness or nutrition fees.

9 (7) Infrastructure or dining facility fees.

10 (8) Any other fee or financial obligation, however  
11 labeled, that has the effect of charging a student for  
12 meal plan participation following the submission of a  
13 medical exemption.

14 (c) A student with a submitted medical exemption may  
15 voluntarily purchase an optional meal plan if offered by an  
16 institution, but no institution may condition housing access  
17 or enrollment on voluntary purchase.

18 Section 25. Housing protections.

19 (a) An institution may not increase housing charges for a  
20 student, impose additional housing fees on a student, or  
21 require a student to reside in a different or more expensive  
22 housing assignment due to receipt of a medical exemption from  
23 the student.

24 (b) No student may be penalized in housing priority,  
25 placement, or availability due to the student's medical

1 exemption.

2 Section 30. Prohibited practices. No institution may:

3 (1) bundle meal plan costs with housing charges for a  
4 student with a submitted medical exemption;

5 (2) delay processing of a student's medical exemption  
6 beyond 10 business days;

7 (3) condition a medical exemption submission on  
8 disability classification, federal Section 504  
9 eligibility, institutional approval, or additional  
10 institutional review;

11 (4) deny housing to a student with a submitted medical  
12 exemption; or

13 (5) impose academic, residential, or enrollment  
14 restrictions on a student due to the student's submitted  
15 medical exemption.

16 Section 35. Transparency requirements.

17 (a) Each institution shall publish its medical exemption  
18 process prominently on its website.

19 (b) The information required to be published under  
20 subsection (a) must include:

21 (1) how to request a medical exemption;

22 (2) expected processing timelines; and

23 (3) contact information for assistance.

24 (c) An institution shall provide a student with written

1 confirmation once the student submits a medical exemption.

2 Section 40. Refund requirement. An institution that  
3 charges a student in violation of this Act shall issue a full  
4 refund of the improper charges within 30 days after discovery  
5 by the institution or notification by the student.

6 Section 45. Penalty for violation.

7 (a) Any institution that violates this Act is subject to a  
8 civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000 per violation, to be  
9 imposed by the Board of Higher Education after an  
10 administrative proceeding is held as determined by rule.

11 (b) Each student affected by a violation of this Act  
12 constitutes a separate violation of this Act.

13 (c) The Attorney General may bring an action in circuit  
14 court to enforce the collection of any monetary penalty  
15 imposed under this Section.

16 (d) A student may file a complaint with the Board of Higher  
17 Education for a violation of this Act.

18 Section 50. Act construction. Nothing in this Act  
19 prohibits an institution from offering an optional meal plan  
20 or dining service to a student who voluntarily elects to  
21 purchase an optional meal plan or dining service.

22 Section 90. Rulemaking. The Board of Higher Education may

1     adopt any rules necessary to implement and administer this  
2     Act.

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     2027.