



SR0625

LRB104 20889 ECR 34563 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is the fourth-largest school district in the United States, serving more than 325,000 students and providing approximately 350,000 meals daily through participation in federal child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program; and

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WHEREAS, In December 2020, the Chicago Board of Education adopted a Local School Wellness Policy that includes a district-wide prohibition on pork products in all CPS breakfast and lunch offerings; and

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WHEREAS, Public records requests have not identified documentation explaining the rationale, nutrition analysis, cost analysis, or CPS Board deliberation supporting the adoption of an all-pork prohibition; and

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WHEREAS, The 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, issued by the United States Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Health and Human Services (DHHS), recognize pork as a nutrient-dense, high-quality protein that supports child growth, development, and overall health when prepared in appropriate forms; and

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WHEREAS, Pork provides essential nutrients, including

1 complete protein, iron, zinc, B vitamins including B12, and
2 choline, which supports brain development; and

3 WHEREAS, Illinois ranks fourth in the United States in
4 pork production, contributing more than \$11.9 billion annually
5 to the State's economy; and

6 WHEREAS, The pork industry contributes approximately
7 32,690 jobs in Illinois, including in pork production and with
8 input suppliers such as feed and equipment, transportation,
9 and processing; and

10 WHEREAS, Pork is widely consumed across Chicago households
11 and is culturally relevant to many CPS families, including
12 Latino, African American, Asian-American, and White
13 communities; and

14 WHEREAS, CPS participates in the National School Lunch
15 Program and receives USDA foods, including pork products
16 eligible for distribution under the USDA Section 32 program at
17 reduced or no cost; and

18 WHEREAS, The current prohibition prevents CPS from
19 utilizing USDA-provided pork products, limiting menu
20 flexibility and access to cost-effective protein options
21 funded by federal resources; and

1 WHEREAS, CPS routinely offers multiple entree options to
2 accommodate dietary needs and preferences, reducing the
3 necessity for a blanket prohibition on any single protein
4 source; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the Chicago
7 Public Schools (CPS) Board of Education to conduct a formal
8 review of the Local School Wellness Policy provision
9 prohibiting pork products; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That we urge such a review to include
11 identification and disclosure of the original rationale and
12 supporting documentation for the prohibition, consultation
13 with nutrition experts and food service professionals, and
14 consideration of stakeholder input; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we encourage the CPS Board of Education to
16 evaluate whether limited menu testing or pilot programs
17 allowing pork products would better align with current
18 nutrition science, cultural inclusion, fiscal stewardship, and
19 full utilization of available USDA foods.