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1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to the Nutritional Options Pilot 3 Program; creating the Nutritional Options Pilot 4 Program within the Department of Agriculture and 5 Consumer Services for a specified purpose; requiring 6 the Commissioner of Agriculture to select school 7 districts for participation in the pilot program, 8 subject to legislative appropriation; requiring 9 participating school districts to provide certain alternative meals and snacks to certain students upon 10 11 the request of a student or his or her parent or 12 guardian; authorizing such request to be made at the 13 beginning of each semester; providing cost 14 requirements for such meals and snacks; providing 15 school district requirements; requiring the department 16 to provide a report to the Governor and Legislature by 17 a specified date; providing for the expiration of the 18 pilot program; providing an effective date. 19 20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 21 22 Section 1. Section 595.4051, Florida Statutes, is created 23 to read: 24 595.4051 Nutritional Options Pilot Program. -25 (1) Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, the

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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Nutritional Options Pilot Program is created within the

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for a period of

2 school years. The purpose of the pilot program is to provide

students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals or

snacks under the National School Lunch Program or any other

program with a plant-based, kosher, and halal meal or snack at

the same cost to the student.

- (2)(a) To participate in the program, a school district may submit an application to the department in a format prescribed by the department.
- (b) The Commissioner of Agriculture shall select school districts for participation in the program, subject to legislative appropriation.
- (c)1. Selected school districts shall receive funding to, upon the request of a student or his or her parent or guardian, provide students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals or snacks under the National School Lunch Program or any other program with a plant-based, kosher, and halal meal or snack at the same cost to the student. The request by a student or his or her parent or guardian for an alternative meal or snack may be made at the beginning of each semester.
- 2. Participating school districts must offer at least one plant-based, kosher, and halal meal or snack for every two non-plant-based, non-kosher, or non-halal meals or snacks offered.
  - (d) Each participating school district must publish

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ΣŢ	information about the pilot program and its meal and snack
52	alternatives on its website.
53	(3) The department shall provide a report to the Governor,
54	the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
55	Representatives by August 1, 2026. The report must include:
56	(a) The number of school districts that participated in
57	the program.
58	(b) The number of students within each participating
59	school district who participated in the program.
6 O	(c) The cost effectiveness of offering plant-based,
51	kosher, and halal meals and snacks.
52	(4) This section expires August 1, 2026.
63	Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.