



**SENATOR BORRIS L. MILES**  
**DISTRICT 13**

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **School Food Donation Legislation Goes to the Governor**

AUSTIN - Senate Bill 725, which addresses school food donation has passed both chambers and is on the way to Governor Greg Abbott.

Food insecurity is a major problem. Texas is second in the nation for food insecurity, with nearly two million children who are food insecure. Food insecurity negatively affects a child's mental health and ability to be attentive in school. SB 725 would allow schools to donate surplus food to nonprofit organizations and redistribute those foods to schools so hungry kids can access it at any time.

"In school cafeterias across our state, food items like packaged snacks or whole fruits are left by students who do not consume them," said Senator Borris L. Miles. "These items are still perfectly good but would have been thrown away. This bill would allow schools to donate these food items so that they can be available to our kids."

Under this legislation, schools would designate individuals who are directly affiliated with the campus like a teacher, counselor, or PTA member to serve as official representatives of a non-profit organization to receive the donated food items. These individuals can then store the donated items in a food pantry to redistribute to hungry students in that school. The bill also includes a provision that would help prevent lunch shaming in the school cafeteria. The new change would allow school districts to adopt a policy that provides food to a student who does not have enough money in their pre-paid lunch account.

"Lunch shaming is an unfortunate practice that is happening at schools across Texas. It is nothing more than psychological bullying. A child in school should never have a tray of food taken away, marked with a stamp that says 'insufficient funds,' and receive a brown bag with a cheese sandwich. Children do not need to be punished in front of their peers for something that is not their fault. I am proud we were able to add this provision to the bill to address this concern," said Senator Miles.

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