HB 2760 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

Prepared By:	Alethia Miller, LPRO Analyst
Sub-Referral To:	Joint Committee On Student Success
Meeting Dates:	2/27, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Universal School Meals Account to reimburse school districts for United States Department of Agriculture reimbursable meals, and meals not reimbursed by state, federal, or other sources. Provides for prioritization of distributions if funds are insufficient to make reimbursements. Establishes prioritization to districts offering breakfast, lunch, or both without consideration of individual eligibility receiving free and or reduced-price meals on percentage of students categorically eligible, and then districts based on four-year eligibility reimbursing using percentage of free, reduced, and total cost of meals. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Link between student success and school meals
- Challenge in computing cost and overall cost of policy
- Difficulty in providing breakfast for students in rural areas due to travel time to and from school

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Community Eligibility Provisions (CEP) is a federal program that allows districts, schools, or groups of schools to provide breakfast and lunch to all students at no charge based on student population eligibility. HB 2545 (2015) required school districts provide lunch at no charge to students eligible for reduced priced lunch benefits. This program allows more families to participate at no cost to their household, compared to the CEP program. Schools with qualifying students must determine if the CEP or the Standard Program will yield higher reimbursements. Five school districts left the CEP program and participated in the standard Program.

House Bill 2760 establishes Universal School Meals Account to reimburse school districts for USDA reimbursable meals, and meals not reimbursed by state, federal, or other sources. It prioritizes the distribution of funds.