

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 653

Short Title: Plant-Based Lunch Options. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Autry, Ball, and Harrison (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 18, 2023

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO OFFER A PLANT-BASED MEAL OPTION
3 AT EACH SCHOOL MEAL.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-263(b) reads as rewritten:

6 "(b) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of Part 2
7 of this Article, including those under G.S. 115C-264.6, and may adopt further rules regulating
8 the provision of school nutrition services that impose additional restrictions that are not
9 inconsistent with the federal guidelines."

10 **SECTION 2.** Article 17 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by
11 adding a new section to read:

12 "**§ 115C-264.6. Plant-based options required.**

13 School food authorities shall offer at least one plant-based meal entree option at every
14 breakfast and lunch served. For the purposes of this section, a "plant-based meal" is a meal that
15 is free of all animal products, including meat, poultry, fish, dairy, and eggs. The plant-based
16 meals must also meet the nutritional guidelines issued by the Food and Nutrition Service of the
17 United States Department of Agriculture."

18 **SECTION 3.** No later than August 15, 2023, the State Board of Education shall
19 publish guidance and recommendations for the local boards of education as to how to best
20 implement the provisions of G.S. 115C-264.6, as enacted by this act.

21 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
22 the 2023-2024 school year.

