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KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Legislative Bill

Red B	ill#	SB	57
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Referred to Committee: Senate 2

Authors: Lea Williams	Action on the Bill
School: Second Street School	House Senate
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City: Franklin	☐ Defeated ☐ Defeated

An act to require Kentucky Public Schools to have open food options for students.

Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Section 1: This bill will ensure that all students in Kentucky will be properly fed according to their dietary needs.

Section 2: In America 31.8 percent of citizens represent various religious groups other than Protestant. Those religious groups often require the worshipers of that religion to consume or exclude certain foods from their diet. A large percentage of Kentuckians cannot afford to purchase their own lunch everyday so, they go hungry. There are also lots of students going hungry because they have certain religious practices they have to observe and their parents cannot afford to pack a lunch for their child every day to take with them to school. Let all students have the right to reserve their religious values by having a selection on the lunch menu so they will be able to receive the proper nutrition.

Section 3: 8.3 million citizens of the United States are strict vegetarians. Also, 22.3 million people are on vegetarian inclined diets. There are many children on a vegetarian diet either for medical reasons because the consequence will jeopardize their health. The public schools in Kentucky do not offer a vegetarian/vegan meal choice. If the public schools continue not to offer vegetarian/vegan options an immense amount of children will go without meals throughout the school day. Let all students that are restricted to a vegetarian/vegan diet have a vegetarian or vegan choices on the lunch menu.

Section 4: More than 15 million Americans have food allergies. Some of the most common food allergies are eggs, milk, fish, and wheat. Milk, in some of Kentucky's schools, is the only option for a student to drink. Other options are needed for students who are lactose intolerant. Wheat is a common food allergen and for many Kentucky Schools, this is the only grain available. This makes parents that have children that are allergic to wheat have to spend a great deal of money every school year because the school serves only wheat. Also, soy is a very commonly found food allergy and schools continue to serve items that contain soy and that put students in danger. Let all children/students with food allergies have accessible options to avoid any attacks from their uncontrollable allergens.

Section 5: If found criminally negligent, first offenses will result in a warning. Second offenses will result in a \$100 fee and third offenses will result in an additional \$150.

Section 6: This bill shall go into effect immediately upon passage.