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SENATE BILL NO. 283  
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
(Proposed by the House Committee on Education  
on February 28, 2024)  
(Patron Prior to Substitute--Senator Roem)

A BILL to require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to convene a stakeholder work group to study and make recommendations on offering free school meals to students statewide; report.

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

1. § 1. The Superintendent of Public Instruction, in coordination with the Secretary of Education, shall convene a stakeholder work group to (i) study the estimated impact of offering free school meals to students statewide, (ii) identify options to reduce or eliminate student and school meal debt, and (iii) make recommendations regarding options to leverage other programs funded at the state and federal levels for student school meals. The work group shall be chaired by the Superintendent of Public Instruction and shall include relevant stakeholders, including representatives of local school divisions and individuals with expertise in providing innovative solutions at the state and local levels to provide free school meals to students. The work group shall report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding by November 1, 2024.

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