AN ACT INCREASING FUNDING FOR ELDERLY NUTRITION, ENSURING EQUITABLE RATES FOR PROVIDERS OF MEALS ON WHEELS AND COLLECTING DATA ON MALNUTRITION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 17b-343 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

The Commissioner of Social Services shall establish annually the maximum allowable rate to be paid by agencies for homemaker services, chore person services, companion services, respite care, meals on wheels, adult day care services, case management and assessment services, transportation, mental health counseling and elderly foster care. [, except that the maximum allowable rates in effect July 1, 1990, shall remain in effect during the fiscal years ending June 30, 1992, and June 30, 1993.] The Commissioner of Social Services shall prescribe uniform forms on which agencies providing such services shall report their costs for such services. Such rates shall be determined on the basis of a reasonable payment for necessary services rendered. The maximum allowable rates established by the Commissioner of Social Services for the Connecticut home-care program for the elderly established under section 17b-342 shall constitute the rates required
under this section until revised in accordance with this section. The Commissioner of Social Services shall establish a fee schedule, to be effective on and after July 1, 1994, for homemaker services, chore person services, companion services, respite care, meals on wheels, adult day care services, case management and assessment services, transportation, mental health counseling and elderly foster care. The commissioner may annually increase [any fee in] the fee schedule based on an increase in the cost of services. The commissioner shall increase the fee schedule effective July 1, 2000, by not less than five per cent, for adult day care services. The commissioner shall increase the fee schedule effective July 1, 2011, by four dollars per person, per day for adult day care services. Effective July 1, 2019, and annually thereafter, the commissioner shall increase the fee schedule for meals on wheels providers serving participants in the Connecticut home-care program for the elderly by, at minimum, the cost-of-living adjustment as measured by the consumer price index. The commissioner may increase any fee payable to a meals on wheels provider upon the application of such provider evidencing extraordinary costs related to delivery of meals on wheels in sparsely populated rural regions of the state. Nothing contained in this section shall authorize a payment by the state to any agency for such services in excess of the amount charged by such agency for such services to the general public.

Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 17a-305 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(c) The Department of Rehabilitation Services, in consultation with the five area agencies on aging [J] and elderly nutrition providers, shall review the method of allocation set forth in [subsection (a) of this section and shall report any findings or recommendations to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and human services] subsections (a) and (b) of this section and evaluate the formula used to allocate funding for elderly nutrition programs based on factors including, but not limited to: (1) Elderly
population data from the 2020 census and the American Community
Survey conducted by the United States Census Bureau for the five
elderly planning and service areas as described in section 17a-304, and
(2) any increased costs for providers that deliver meals on wheels in
sparsely populated rural regions. Not later than July 1, 2021, the
department shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section
11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
cognizance of matters relating to aging, appropriations and the
budgets of state agencies and human services on (A) the rates of
reimbursement for each meals on wheels provider in the state
compared to the costs to provide meals on wheels for each such
provider, (B) the administrative expenses of each such meals on wheels
provider, (C) the number of meals on wheels providers that have
reduced or eliminated deliveries based on inadequate state
reimbursement, and (D) any recommended changes in the method of
allocation or funding formula.

Sec. 3. Subdivision (12) of subsection (b) of section 19a-127l of the
general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(12) [Any] Recommendations concerning the collection and analysis
of data on patient malnutrition for the purposes of improving quality
of care and any other issues that the department deems appropriate.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following
sections:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Effective Date</th>
<th>Repealed Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>July 1, 2019</td>
<td>17b-343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>July 1, 2019</td>
<td>17a-305(c)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>July 1, 2019</td>
<td>19a-127l(b)(12)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Statement of Purpose:**
To increase funding for elderly nutrition, ensure equitable rates for
providers of meals on wheels and collect and analyze data on
malnutrition.
[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]