Bill No.: HB-7338
Title: AN ACT INCREASING FUNDING FOR ELDERLY NUTRITION, ENSURING EQUITABLE RATES FOR PROVIDERS OF MEALS ON WHEELS AND COLLECTING DATA ON MALNUTRITION.
Vote Date: 3/21/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 3/19/2019

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SPONSORS OF BILL:
Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:
This bill would require the Department of Social Services to increase the fee schedule for Medicaid Reimbursement to Meals on Wheels by no less than the consumer price index.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:
Kathleen Brennan, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Social Services; The Department is in opposition to this bill as it requires an additional Medicaid rate increase. They also emphasize that they are concerned that this bill selects and provides a rate increase to one specific service provider when there are hundreds of providers throughout the state.

Amy Porter, Commissioner, Department of Rehabilitation Services; Has concerns with section 2 of this bill. Section 2 seeks to place Elderly Nutrition Providers on an equal footing with Area Agencies on Aging in the consultative process that DORS uses when they design funding formulas. Additionally, there are concerns that this bill uses census 2020 data, which is not yet available for use.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:
Joel Sekorski, Director of Services for the Elderly, City of Torrington; In support of this bill. He emphasizes that the support that Meals on Wheels provides extends beyond food. Oftentimes, this may be the only social contact recipients receive that day. This allows them to be a safety check for the recipient and that being able to provide that and respond to
potential issues can avert a hospital stay or ambulance ride. Having nourishing meals delivered to the home allows the elderly to stay independent and in their homes without fear of food insecurity.

Mag Morelli, President, LeadingAge Connecticut; in support of this bill as the Meals on Wheels service provides not only nutrition, but daily contact with the recipients which aids older adults in maintaining dignity in their homes and communities.

Robert Blancato, Defeat Malnutrition Today; DMT states that up to one out of two older adults is either at risk of becoming or is malnourished. This can lead to a four to six day increase in hospital stays, and overall hospital costs to be up to 300 percent greater for individuals who are malnourished.

Abbot; In support of this bill and states that elderly nutrition has been identified as a growing crisis in the United States.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

No sources of opposition were submitted.

**Reported by:** Kayleigh Royston  
**Date:** 03/22/2019