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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 6519**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING DATA COLLECTION TO PREVENT MALNUTRITION AMONG SENIOR CITIZENS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires the state's five area agencies on aging (AAAs) to (1) distribute the National Aging Program Information System (NAPIS) nutritional risk assessment to older persons, (2) collect completed assessments, and (3) report individual and average scores for each elderly planning and service area to the Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS). The NAPIS nutritional risk assessment is a survey that provides each respondent with a score correlating with malnutrition risk.

Current law requires ADS to review, in consultation with the AAAs, its method for allocating federal Older Americans Act funds to the AAAs for supportive services and elderly nutrition. The bill also requires ADS to review its allocation methods for state funds appropriated to the AAAs, and evaluate both state and federal funding allocations based on factors, including the following:

1. for each of the five planning and service areas, the (a) elderly population data from the most recent U.S. census and (b) average and individual scores on the NAPIS nutritional risk assessment; and
2. any increased costs for providers that deliver meals-on-wheels for ADS' elderly nutrition programs in sparsely populated rural areas.

The bill requires ADS to (1) solicit information and recommendations from elderly nutrition providers for consideration in its evaluation and (2) report, by July 1, 2022, to the Aging, Appropriations, and Human Services committees on certain related

information.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

### **REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES**

Current law requires ADS to report to the Appropriations and Human Services committees (1) any findings or recommendations from its review of allocation methods for federal funds and (2) data on service levels and costs. The bill instead requires ADS to report, by July 1, 2022, to the Aging, Appropriations, and Human Services committees on the following information:

1. elderly population data and average and individual scores on the NAPIS nutritional risk assessment for each of the five elderly planning and service areas;
2. reimbursement rates for each meals-on-wheels provider in ADS' elderly nutrition program, compared to each provider's costs to provide the meals;
3. each meals-on-wheels provider's administrative expenses;
4. how many meal deliveries providers reduced or eliminated due to inadequate state reimbursement; and
5. any recommended changes for how to allocate funds.

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/31/2021)