



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 502

January Session, 2021

Substitute House Bill No. 6519

House of Representatives, April 19, 2021

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. ABERCROMBIE of the 83rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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

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

1 Section 1. Section 17a-304 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 As used in this section and section 17a-305, as amended by this act,
4 "NAPIS nutritional risk assessment" means a survey developed by the
5 National Aging Program Information System, or NAPIS, that provides
6 a person who takes the survey with a score correlating with risk of
7 malnutrition. The state shall be divided into five elderly planning and
8 service areas, in accordance with federal law and regulations, each
9 having an area agency on aging to carry out the mandates of the federal
10 Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended. The area agencies shall (1)
11 represent older persons within their geographic areas, (2) develop an
12 area plan for approval by the Department of Aging and Disability
13 Services and upon such approval administer the plan, (3) coordinate

14 and assist local public and nonprofit, private agencies in the
15 development of programs, (4) receive and distribute federal and state
16 funds for such purposes, in accordance with applicable law, (5)
17 distribute the NAPIS nutritional risk assessment to older persons,
18 collect the assessments and report individual and average scores for
19 each elderly planning and service area to the Department of Aging and
20 Disability Services, and [(5)] (6) carry out any additional duties and
21 functions required by federal law and regulations.

22 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 17a-305 of the general statutes is
23 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
24 *2021*):

25 (c) The Department of Aging and Disability Services, in consultation
26 with the five area agencies on aging, shall review the method of
27 allocation set forth in [subsection (a) of this section and shall report any
28 findings or recommendations, as well as data on service levels and costs,
29 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
30 cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state
31 agencies and human services] subsections (a) and (b) of this section and
32 evaluate the method used to allocate funding for elderly nutrition
33 programs based on factors including, but not limited to: (1) For each of
34 the five elderly planning and service areas as described in section 17a-
35 304, as amended by this act, (A) elderly population data from the most
36 recent United States census, and (B) average and individual scores on
37 the NAPIS nutritional risk assessment; and (2) any increased costs for
38 providers that deliver meals on wheels for the department's elderly
39 nutrition program in sparsely populated rural regions. The department
40 shall solicit information and recommendations from elderly nutrition
41 providers for consideration in its evaluation of the allocation method of
42 the funding of such programs. Not later than July 1, 2022, the
43 department shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
44 4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
45 cognizance of matters relating to aging, appropriations and the budgets
46 of state agencies and human services on (A) elderly population data and
47 average and individual scores on the NAPIS nutritional risk assessment

48 for each of the five elderly planning and service areas as described in
 49 section 17a-304, as amended by this act, (B) the rates of reimbursement
 50 for each meals on wheels provider in the department's elderly nutrition
 51 program compared to the costs to provide meals on wheels for each such
 52 provider, (C) the administrative expenses of each such meals on wheels
 53 provider, (D) the number of such meals on wheels providers that have
 54 reduced or eliminated deliveries based on inadequate state
 55 reimbursement, and (E) any recommended changes in the method of
 56 allocation of funds. Providers of meals [under] for the department's
 57 elderly nutrition program shall annually provide the department with
 58 data on service levels and costs.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2021	17a-304
Sec. 2	July 1, 2021	17a-305(c)

HS *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill adds reporting requirements to the state's Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs)¹ and the Department of Aging and Disability Services and results in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

¹Connecticut's five AAAs are part of the federal framework and design of service delivery under Older Americans Act programs.

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)