



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6857

January Session, 2023



AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FOOD AS MEDICINE WORKING GROUP.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section
2 and section 2 of this act, (1) "certified dietitian-nutritionist" means a
3 dietitian-nutritionist certified pursuant to section 20-206n of the
4 general statutes, (2) "certain health conditions" means conditions
5 including, but not limited to, prediabetes, gestational diabetes and
6 types 1 and 2 diabetes, heart disease, including hypertension,
7 hypercholesterol, dyslipidemia and congestive heart failure, food
8 allergies, celiac disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, renal
9 disease and obesity, (3) "health care provider" means a physician,
10 physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, certified
11 dietitian-nutritionist or certified diabetes educator, and (4) "produce
12 prescription" means a prescription for fruits and vegetables without
13 added salt, sugar or fat given to a Medicaid enrollee with certain
14 health conditions by a health care provider.

15 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall apply for a Medicaid
16 waiver under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act for a three-year
17 pilot program to provide Medicaid coverage for produce prescriptions
18 for a Medicaid enrollee with certain health conditions. The
19 commissioner may provide such enrollee with vouchers or an

20 electronic debit card restricted to purchases of prescribed produce.

21 (c) Not later than January 15, 2024, January 15, 2025, and January 15,
22 2026, the commissioner shall file reports, in accordance with the
23 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, with the joint
24 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
25 matters relating to human services on (1) the number of Medicaid
26 enrollees who have received produce prescriptions, (2) data regarding
27 the effect produce prescriptions have on their health, including, but
28 not limited to, indicators such as blood sugar levels, blood pressure
29 and serum lipids, (3) the effect of produce prescriptions on ranges of
30 food insecurity, as measured by the United States Department of
31 Agriculture, and (4) the cost to the state to provide Medicaid
32 reimbursement for such prescriptions compared to any savings
33 generated by improved health outcomes for such enrollees. The
34 commissioner shall share aggregate data on food insecurity among
35 pilot program participants with organizations that track data on food
36 insecurity and connect food insecure persons with nutritional
37 assistance.

38 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section, (1)
39 "medically tailored meals" means a meal plan consisting of five to
40 twenty-one meals per week tailored by a certified dietitian-nutritionist,
41 or other qualified nutrition professional as determined by the
42 Commissioner of Social Services, to help treat certain health conditions
43 of Medicaid enrollees, and (2) "medically tailored food" means
44 partially prepared or nonprepared food items, or both, sufficient to
45 prepare not more than fourteen meals per week selected by a certified
46 dietitian-nutritionist, or other qualified nutrition professional as
47 determined by the commissioner, as part of a treatment plan for a
48 Medicaid enrollee with certain health conditions.

49 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall convene a working
50 group not later than August 1, 2023, to develop recommendations to
51 improve health outcomes for Medicaid enrollees with certain health
52 conditions by treating food as medicine. The working group's study

53 shall include, but not be limited to, best practices for integrating
54 medically tailored meals and medically tailored food for Medicaid
55 enrollees with certain health conditions into the state's medical
56 assistance program.

57 (c) The working group shall consist of (1) the Commissioner of
58 Social Services, or the commissioner's designee; (2) the Commissioner
59 of Agriculture, or the commissioner's designee; (3) a representative of
60 the elderly nutrition program administered by the Department of
61 Aging and Disability Services, appointed by the Commissioner of
62 Aging and Disability Services; (4) a certified dietitian-nutritionist with
63 experience in planning medically tailored meals or medically tailored
64 foods for persons with certain health conditions, appointed by the
65 Commissioner of Social Services; (5) an academic professional, who
66 has researched the link between nutrition and certain health
67 conditions, appointed by the Commissioner of Social Services; (6) two
68 Medicaid enrollees with certain health conditions, appointed by the
69 Commissioner of Social Services; (7) one person appointed by the
70 House chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General
71 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services;
72 and (8) one person appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint
73 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
74 matters relating to human services.

75 (d) The chairpersons of the working group shall be chosen by
76 members of the working group. The working group shall meet not less
77 than monthly and shall provide a report with recommendations to the
78 Commissioner of Social Services not later than January 1, 2024. The
79 working group shall terminate on the date that it submits such report
80 or January 1, 2024, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

HS

Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

APP