



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 977**

January Session, 2023



**AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SURGERY AND  
MEDICAL SERVICES RELATED TO TREATMENT OF OBESITY.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) (1) As used in this  
2 section, "bariatric surgery" means surgical changes to the digestive  
3 system to help a patient with obesity to lose weight;

4 (2) "Body mass index" means the number calculated by dividing an  
5 individual's weight in kilograms by the individual's height in meters  
6 squared;

7 (3) "Medical services" means (A) prescription drugs approved by the  
8 Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of obesity on an  
9 outpatient basis, and (B) nutritional counseling provided by a  
10 registered dietitian-nutritionist certified pursuant to section 20-206n of  
11 the general statutes;

12 (4) "Severe obesity" means a body mass index that is:

13 (A) Greater than forty; or

14 (B) Thirty-five or more if an individual has been diagnosed with a  
15 comorbid disease or condition, including, but not limited to, a  
16 cardiopulmonary condition, diabetes, hypertension or sleep apnea;

17 and

18 (5) "Obesity" means a body mass index of thirty or higher.

19 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall provide medical  
20 assistance for (1) bariatric surgery and related medical services for  
21 Medicaid and HUSKY B beneficiaries with severe obesity, and (2)  
22 medical services for Medicaid and HUSKY B beneficiaries with a body  
23 mass index greater than thirty-five, provided such beneficiaries  
24 otherwise meet conditions set by the Centers for Medicare and  
25 Medicaid Services for such surgery and medical services. If necessary,  
26 the commissioner may amend the Medicaid state plan and the state  
27 plan for the Children's Health Insurance Program to implement the  
28 provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	New section

**HS**      *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*      APP  
**APP**      *Joint Favorable*