



**PA 19-157**—sHB 7163

*Human Services Committee*

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT ON AGING AND  
DISABILITY SERVICES AND MEALS ON WHEELS**

**SUMMARY:** This act allows the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner, beginning July 1, 2020, to annually increase the reimbursement rate for meals-on-wheels providers under the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (see **BACKGROUND**) by at least the consumer price index's cost of living adjustment. It also allows the commissioner to increase a provider's rate if the provider submits evidence of extraordinary costs related to delivering meals-on-wheels in sparsely populated rural areas of the state.

By law, the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) must (1) review, in consultation with the five area agencies on aging (AAAs), its method for allocating federal Older Americans Act funds to the AAAs for supportive services and elderly nutrition and (2) report any findings and recommendations from its review to the Appropriations and Human Services committees. The act requires (1) DORS to include service level and cost data in its report and (2) elderly nutrition program providers to annually provide DORS with this data.

The act also requires the Department of Public Health (DPH), as part of its quality of care program for licensed health care facilities (e.g., hospitals and nursing homes), to develop recommendations on collecting and analyzing data on patient malnutrition to improve quality of care. By law, the program must develop a standardized data set to measure health care facilities' clinical performance and require such data to be periodically collected and reported to DPH.

Additionally, the act renames DORS the Department of Aging and Disability Services and adds the new agency title to the statutory list of executive branch agencies. It makes numerous conforming changes throughout the statutes.

Lastly, it deletes obsolete provisions, including two references to the Department of Aging. PA 18-169 transferred the functions, powers, duties, and personnel of the former State Department on Aging from DSS to DORS.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2019, except provisions on (1) meals-on-wheels provider reimbursement rates; a DORS reporting requirement; and DPH's quality of care program are effective July 1, 2019 and (2) two technical changes are effective July 1, 2020.

**BACKGROUND**

*Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE)*

CHCPE is a Medicaid waiver and state-funded program that provides a range of home- and community-based services for eligible individuals age 65 and older

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who are institutionalized or at risk of institutionalization. To be eligible for CHCPE, individuals must meet income and asset limits.