



Substitute House Bill No. 5231

Public Act No. 22-32

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:

Section 1. Section 17a-304 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

The state shall be divided into five elderly planning and service areas, in accordance with federal law and regulations, each having an area agency on aging to carry out the mandates of the federal Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended. The area agencies shall (1) represent older persons within their geographic areas, (2) develop an area plan for approval by the Department of Aging and Disability Services and upon such approval administer the plan, (3) coordinate and assist local public and nonprofit, private agencies in the development of programs, (4) receive and distribute federal and state funds for such purposes, in accordance with applicable law, (5) distribute nutritional risk assessment surveys to older persons, collect the surveys and report individual and average nutritional risk assessment scores for each elderly planning and service area to the Department of Aging and Disability Services, and [(5)] (6) carry out any additional duties and functions required by federal law and regulations.

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Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 17a-305 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

(c) The Department of Aging and Disability Services, in consultation with the five area agencies on aging, shall review the method of allocation set forth in [subsection (a) of this section and shall report any findings or recommendations, as well as data on service levels and costs, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and human services] subsections (a) and (b) of this section and evaluate the method used to allocate funding for elderly nutrition services based on factors including, but not limited to, for each of the five elderly planning and service areas as described in section 17a-304, as amended by this act, (1) elderly population data from the most recent United States census, and (2) average and individual nutritional risk assessment scores on nutritional risk assessment surveys. The department shall solicit information and recommendations from elderly nutrition program providers for consideration in the department's evaluation. Not later than July 1, 2023, the department shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to aging, appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and human services on (A) the data collected pursuant to this subsection, (B) the rates of reimbursement for each meals on wheels provider in the department's elderly nutrition program compared to the cost to provide meals on wheels for each such provider, (C) the administrative expenses of each such meals on wheels provider, (D) the number of such meals on wheels providers that have reduced or eliminated deliveries based on inadequate state reimbursement, and (E) any recommended changes in the method of allocation of funds. Providers of meals [under] in the department's elderly nutrition program shall annually provide the department with data on service levels and costs.

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Approved May 17, 2022