
SENATE BILL 5736

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By Senators Brown, Palumbo, Keiser, Rossi, Frockt, Braun, Bailey, Hasegawa, and Rolfes

Read first time 02/06/17. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to the expansion of nutrition programs for older
2 adults; and creating new sections.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5 (1) Washingtonians sixty-five years of age and older will nearly
6 double in the next twenty-five years, from twelve percent of our
7 population in 2015 to almost twenty-two percent of our population in
8 2040. Younger people with disabilities will also require supportive
9 long-term care services.

10 (2) The long-term care system should support autonomy and self-
11 determination. Furthermore, the long-term care system should promote
12 personal planning and savings combined with public support, when
13 needed.

14 (3) Whenever possible, the long-term care system should utilize
15 evidence-based practices to improve the general health of
16 Washingtonians over their lifetime and reduce related health care and
17 long-term care costs.

18 (4) Nutrition programs, such as the meals on wheels program, are
19 a low-cost method of helping seniors remain independent.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Subject to the availability of amounts
2 appropriated for this specific purpose, the department of social and
3 health services must develop a program to expand nutrition services
4 through the meals on wheels program.

5 (a) At least sixty-five percent of the moneys may be distributed
6 according to formulae to existing providers of meals on wheels
7 programs to expand the number of people served.

8 (b) Up to twenty-five percent of the moneys may be distributed by
9 a competitive grant process to expand the meals on wheels program
10 into areas not presently being served.

11 (c) Up to five percent of the moneys may be used by the
12 department administration, monitoring of the grants, and providing
13 technical assistance to existing and new meals on wheels providers.

14 (2) The department must develop criteria for awarding grants
15 under subsection (1)(b) of this section. The criteria must include,
16 but is not limited to:

17 (a) Expanding service in areas with the greatest need to assist
18 low-income homebound seniors who are unable to prepare food for
19 themselves and lack a caregiver that prepares meals;

20 (b) Expanding services in areas where senior citizens have
21 limited access to community support services and facilities; and

22 (c) Geographic diversity within the state and between rural and
23 urban areas.

24 (3) None of the grant moneys awarded under subsection (1)(b) of
25 this section may be used to supplant existing funds the provider
26 receives for the meals on wheels program.

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