
SENATE BILL 5966

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Senators Nobles, Riccelli, Alvarado, Hasegawa, Valdez, and C. Wilson

Prefiled 01/05/26. Read first time 01/12/26. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to medically tailored meals; adding a new section
2 to chapter 74.39A RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 74.09 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.39A
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1)(a) Any benefit administered by the department through
7 contracted entities to provide medically tailored meals to clients
8 under this chapter shall require that medically tailored meals be, to
9 the extent possible, provided by Washington state-based, nonprofit
10 organizations.

11 (b) Medically tailored meal vendors shall comply with the
12 client's medically tailored meal nutrition care plan. The medically
13 tailored meal vendor shall have a qualified medical professional
14 review and approve the menus provided in response to a nutrition care
15 plan for medically tailored meals.

16 (c) All medically tailored meals provided to clients under this
17 chapter shall:

18 (i) Align with evidence-based nutritional practice guidelines for
19 treating the specified condition;

20 (ii) Offer accommodations in dietary needs, allergy restrictions,
21 and cultural preferences;

1 (iii) Prioritize local, whole foods or from scratch prepared
2 meals unless otherwise required to appropriately meet the needs of a
3 client;

4 (iv) Provide at least 500 calories, or otherwise meet a client's
5 medically appropriate energy needs; and

6 (v) Provide one-third of the recommended dietary reference
7 intakes for carbohydrates and protein as established by the food and
8 nutrition board of the national academy of medicine, unless otherwise
9 permitted.

10 (2) For the purposes of this section:

11 (a) "Medically tailored meal" means a fresh or frozen meal that
12 is designed by a qualified medical professional for the treatment of
13 one or more medical conditions of a client.

14 (b) "Medically tailored meal vendor" means a vendor that provides
15 medically tailored meals according to specifications from a qualified
16 medical professional.

17 (c) "Qualified medical professional" means a person who holds a
18 credential issued by a disciplining authority under RCW 18.130.040
19 and whose credential includes the authority to establish and tailor
20 nutrition care plans to meet the medical needs of a referred client.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09
22 RCW to read as follows:

23 (1)(a) Any benefit administered by the authority through
24 contracted entities to provide medically tailored meals to enrollees
25 under this chapter shall require that medically tailored meals be, to
26 the extent possible, provided by Washington state-based, nonprofit
27 organizations.

28 (b) Medically tailored meal vendors shall comply with the
29 enrollee's medically tailored meal nutrition care plan. The medically
30 tailored meal vendor shall have a qualified medical professional
31 review and approve the menus provided in response to a nutrition care
32 plan for medically tailored meals.

33 (c) All medically tailored meals provided to enrollees under this
34 chapter shall:

35 (i) Align with evidence-based nutritional practice guidelines for
36 treating the specified condition;

37 (ii) Offer accommodations in dietary needs, allergy restrictions,
38 and cultural preferences;

1 (iii) Prioritize local, whole foods or from scratch prepared
2 meals unless otherwise required to appropriately meet the needs of an
3 enrollee;

4 (iv) Provide at least 500 calories, or otherwise meet an
5 enrollee's medically appropriate energy needs; and

6 (v) Provide one-third of the recommended dietary reference
7 intakes for carbohydrates and protein as established by the food and
8 nutrition board of the national academy of medicine, unless otherwise
9 permitted.

10 (2) For the purposes of this section:

11 (a) "Medically tailored meal" means a fresh or frozen meal that
12 is designed by a qualified medical professional for the treatment of
13 one or more medical conditions of an enrollee.

14 (b) "Medically tailored meal vendor" means a vendor that provides
15 medically tailored meals according to specifications from a qualified
16 medical professional.

17 (c) "Qualified medical professional" means a person who holds a
18 credential issued by a disciplining authority under RCW 18.130.040
19 and whose credential includes the authority to establish and tailor
20 nutrition care plans to meet the medical needs of a referred client.

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