

1 H.187

2 Introduced by Representatives Noyes of Wolcott, McFaun of Barre Town,

3 Pajala of Londonderry, and Wood of Waterbury

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Human services; Medicaid; reimbursement; nutrition services

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the
8 Secretary of Human Services to apply for an amendment to Vermont's Global
9 Commitment to Health Section 1115 Demonstration to allow home-delivered
10 meals to be treated as a reimbursable covered service.

11 An act relating to home-delivered meals as a reimbursable covered service

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

14 The General Assembly finds that:

15 (1) Vermont's Global Commitment to Health Section 1115

16 Demonstration provides for a suite of home- and community-based services to
17 assist persons who are elders and persons with disabilities maintain their
18 independence at home or in the community and avoid costly nursing home
19 placement.

20 (2) Serving individuals in the community:

1 (A) has resulted in lower use of nursing homes and at a lower cost
2 than nursing care;

3 (B) achieves desirable health outcomes; and

4 (C) produces high consumer satisfaction.

5 (3) In addition to homemaker, attendant, adult day, home health, respite,
6 home access improvements, and transportation services, nutrition services are
7 important in enabling people to remain in their homes and avoid
8 hospitalization and its associated higher costs.

9 (4) Home-delivered meals are not presently included in covered services
10 or plans of care under the Global Commitment to Health Section 1115
11 Demonstration. The area agencies on aging (AAAs) are designated by the
12 State to coordinate and provide nutrition to homebound persons who are
13 elders, including home-delivered meals, congregate meals, and nutrition
14 counseling.

15 (5) In fiscal year 2017, the AAAs provided over 780,000 home
16 delivered meals to 5,845 people over age 60.

17 (6) Approximately 32 states provide home-delivered meals as part of
18 reimbursable home- and community-based services under their Medicaid
19 waiver programs.

1 Sec. 2. HOME-DELIVERED MEALS

2 The Secretary of Human Services shall request approval from the Centers
3 for Medicare and Medicaid Services for an amendment to Vermont's Global
4 Commitment to Health Section 1115 Demonstration that allows home-
5 delivered meals to be a reimbursable covered service when the meals:

6 (1) are part of a participant's service plan of care; and

7 (2) meet Vermont's area agencies on aging's nutrition requirements in
8 accordance with the Older Americans Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 3001-3058ff.

9 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

10 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.