

1 H.434

2 Introduced by Representatives Noyes of Wolcott, Wood of Waterbury,  
3 Ainsworth of Royalton, Briglin of Thetford, Buckholz of  
4 Hartford, Haas of Rochester, Hill of Wolcott, Keefe of  
5 Manchester, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Lucke of Hartford,  
6 Martel of Waterford, McFaun of Barre Town, Mrowicki of  
7 Putney, Olsen of Londonderry, Pugh of South Burlington,  
8 Rosenquist of Georgia, Scheuermann of Stowe, Sullivan of  
9 Dorset, Troiano of Stannard, Willhoit of St. Johnsbury, and  
10 Yacovone of Morristown

11 Referred to Committee on

12 Date:

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

14 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the  
15 Secretary of Human Services to apply for an amendment to Vermont's Global  
16 Commitment waiver to allow home-delivered meals to be treated as a  
17 reimbursable covered service.

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

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

2 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

3 The General Assembly finds that:

4 (1) The federal Medicaid 1115 waiver, known as Vermont's Global  
5 Commitment to Health waiver, provides for a suite of home- and community-  
6 based services to assist persons who are elders and persons with disabilities  
7 maintain their independence at home or in the community and avoid costly  
8 nursing home placement.

9 (2) Serving individuals in the community:

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

12 (B) achieves desirable health outcomes; and

13 (C) produces high consumer satisfaction.

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

18 (4) Home-delivered meals are not presently included in covered services  
19 or plans of care under the Global Commitment to Health waiver. The area  
20 agencies on aging (AAAs) are designated by the State to coordinate and

1 provide nutrition to homebound persons who are elders, including home-  
2 delivered meals, congregate meals, and nutrition counseling.

3 (5) In fiscal year 2013, the AAAs provided more than 1.1 million meals  
4 in Vermont for persons who are elders.

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

8 Sec. 2. HOME-DELIVERED MEALS

9 The Secretary of Human Services shall request approval from the Centers  
10 for Medicare and Medicaid Services for an amendment to Vermont's Global  
11 Commitment to Health waiver that allows home-delivered meals to be a  
12 reimbursable covered service when the meals:

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

14 (2) meet the Vermont's area agencies on aging's nutrition requirements  
15 in accordance with the Older Americans Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 3001-30058ff.

16 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

17 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.