



Bills of Interest in the 87th Texas Legislature

TX Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics Public Policy Priorities

<p>PROTECTION OF DIETITIAN LICENSURE AND LICENSE INTEGRITY <i>Dietitian licensure oversight is currently well-handled by the Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation. We support bills that allow for continuation of the oversight role and function of TDLR for programs transferred since 2016 (including the Dietitian’s Licensing Program).</i></p>		
HB 1560	Goldman	<p>“Sunset Bills” - strike language in current law that called for a Sunset review in the short term for licensing programs that transferred to TDLR since 2016. They preserve and extend the Dietitian Licensing program to 2033. Status (4/21) - in Calendars Committee</p>
SB 714	Buckingham	
<p>TELEMEDICINE / TELEHEALTH EXPANSION <i>We support bills that authorize the use of telemedicine/telehealth for nutrition care services, that require health plans to reimburse under the same coverage and payment policies as in-person care, and that establish a plan for broadband expansion.</i></p>		
HB 4	Price	<p>Would make permanent the COVID-19 waivers allowing telemedicine/telehealth to be used in the Medicaid, CHIP, and other HHSC public health programs. Expressly authorize telehealth for nutrition counseling in these programs. Status (4/21) - HB 4 passed the House; SB 412 heard in Committee, left pending</p>
SB 412	Buckingham	
SB 40	Zaffarini	<p>Authorizes licensees regulated by TDLR, including dietitians, to provide services via telehealth under uniform rules and standards to be developed by TDLR Status (4/21) - passed Senate and referred to House Public Health Committee</p>
HB 5	Ashby	<p>Establish a statewide broadband office to identify gaps, develop a strategic plan, and secure funding. Stem from recognition that broadband expansion is essential to realizing the full potential of telemedicine and telehealth. Status (4/21) - HB 5 passed full House; SB 5 voted out of Senate Committee</p>
SB 5	Nichols	
HB 980	Fierro	<p>Requires health plans to reimburse preferred or contracted health professionals for a covered service at the same rate as in-person services.</p>
<p>MEDICAL NUTRITION THERAPY: RD/LD ROLE IN DISEASE PREVENTION & MANAGEMENT <i>We support bills that include nutrition care and lifestyle services provided by qualified health professionals to address the spectrum of chronic diseases and all forms of malnutrition.</i></p>		
HB 4015	Guillen	<p>Creates a centralized resource center within DSHS to provide information on Chronic Kidney Disease, including nutrition resources. Status (4/21) - Heard in House Public Health Committee on 4/14, left pending</p>
SB 184	Johnson	<p>Direct DSHS to develop a report to the Legislature on regional and statewide prevalence of eating disorders, national trends and available state-funded behavioral treatment options. Status (4/21) - SB 184 voted out of Senate Committee, first placement on Senate Calendar on 4/22; HB 551 heard in committee 4/21</p>
HB 551	S. Thompson	
SB 827	Kolkhorst	<p>Requires health benefit plans to cap an enrollee's out-of-pocket costs for prescription insulin at \$50 per month. Status (4/21) - passed full Senate; heard by House committee on 4/20</p>



FOOD ACCESS AND SECURITY

We support bills that streamline and simplify supplemental nutrition assistance program certification & recertification, to increase food/nutrition access and security through the lifecycle.

SB 224	Perry	Streamline and simplify the SNAP eligibility certification and recertification process for Texans 60 and older. Status (4/21) - SB 224 passed full Senate; HB 701 voted out of committee on 4/20
HB 701	Walle	

PANDEMIC RESPONSE

We support bills that protect health care providers and professionals in public health settings who perform their duties in times of disasters and public emergencies

SB 6	Hancock	Provide broad, retroactive civil liability protection to health care providers who have performed their duties safely and in good faith during the pandemic. Status (4/21) - SB 6 passed full Senate & referred to House Committee; HB 3659 has been heard in committee.
HB 3659	Leach	
SB 437	Blanco	Requires the state to establish and maintain a 90-day reserve supply of PPE, and requires HHSC to develop rules for procurement, storage and distribution. Status (4/21) - Recommended for Senate Local/Uncontested Calendar

FOOD SAFETY

We support bills that improve access to and utilization of safe food, as well as awareness of food allergens and foodborne pathogens.

HB 464	Cortez	Requires food service establishments to post educational information about food allergens, with an emphasis on building employee awareness. Status (4/21) - Reported out of House Committee; in Calendars Committee
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