

THIRD READING

Bill No: SR 123
Author: Weber Pierson (D)
Introduced: 7/2/26
Vote: Majority

SUBJECT: Medically Supportive Food and Nutrition Services

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution recognizes the critical role that medically supportive food and nutrition plays in reducing chronic disease and advancing health equity.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Medically supportive food and nutrition, commonly known as “food as medicine,” are food-based interventions integrated into health care used to prevent, treat, and reverse diet-sensitive medical conditions.
- 2) The delivery of high-quality medically supportive food and nutrition interventions is driven by contracts with community-based providers who offer culturally relevant and patient-centered services, uphold high nutrition and quality standards, and collaborate with other local organizations and health care providers to support overall patient health.
- 3) An evaluation conducted by the State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) which examined the cost-effectiveness of medically supportive food and nutrition under CalAIM found that implementation of these services led to reduced health care spending, with an 18.7% reduction in costs for inpatient services, a 6% reduction in costs for outpatient services, and a 20% reduction in per-member per-month emergency room costs.
- 4) Prioritizing the sourcing of high-quality food from California regenerative or organic farms or ranches, including from socially disadvantaged or beginning farmers or ranchers, offers multiple benefits to human health, California’s economy, and the environment to reach California’s climate goals by 2045.

This resolution recognizes the value of transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement in strengthening the implementation and effectiveness of medically supportive food and nutrition services throughout California.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 2348 (Bonta of 2026, in Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File)
AB 1975 (Bonta, 2024) – Vetoed by Governor Newsom

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/5/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/5/26)

None received

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8/5/26 15:18:34

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