

providing that the requirements for licensure of dietitians shall take effect after a certain date; providing that certain requirements shall be waived for certain individuals before a certain date; providing that this Act is not intended to provide any mandated reimbursement for dietitians merely because of their licensure; and generally relating to the licensing of dietitians and limitation on the use of certain words and terms in the State.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 48A - Insurance Code
Section 354Z, 470U, and 477AA
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1979 Replacement Volume and 1984 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article - Health Occupations
Section 4.5-101 through 4.5-502, inclusive, to be under the
new title "Title 4.5 Dietitians"
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1981 Volume and 1984 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Currently there is no clear means for the public to identify who is qualified to provide quality nutritional care and information; and

WHEREAS, The elderly, the poor, the overweight, the chronically and terminally ill, and the fitness enthusiast are obtaining counseling from sometimes unqualified persons resulting in unnecessary costs and harm; and

WHEREAS, Health care providers frequently have inadequate or unreliable means of identifying qualified diet counselors with whom to collaborate; and

WHEREAS, Money has been spent needlessly by those with limited incomes for ineffective cures and treatments; and

WHEREAS, Health care costs remain unnecessarily high for treatment of many illnesses, and costs could be reduced in many cases with adequate preventive diet counseling; and

WHEREAS, Licensing dietitians will help the consumer who is elderly, poor, overweight, chronically or terminally ill, or interested in optimum fitness find a qualified person to offer advice in good nutrition, special diets and economical food buying; and