

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

[PERFECTED]

HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

# HOUSE BILL NO. 2355

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4711H.02P

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

---

## AN ACT

To amend chapter 208, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to a MO HealthNet waiver for nutrition services.

---

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 208, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be  
2 known as section 208.270, to read as follows:

**208.270. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Food is  
2 Medicine Act".**

**3 2. As used in this section, the following terms mean:**

**4 (1) "Clinically indicated vitamin therapy", vitamin supplementation prescribed  
5 to treat a diagnosed micronutrient deficiency supported by laboratory evidence, or  
6 prescribed for a guideline supported high-risk clinical condition for which  
7 supplementation is medically necessary. Vitamins used solely for general wellness or  
8 without a disease directed indication shall not be covered, consistent with federal  
9 medical expense standards;**

**10 (2) "Medically tailored groceries", a selection of groceries, including but not  
11 limited to fruits, vegetables, grains, beans, lean proteins, or dairy, that is prescribed by a  
12 registered dietitian or qualified clinical team for individuals who are able to prepare  
13 food. Such groceries may be specifically selected by a registered dietitian or qualified  
14 clinical team, or selected by a participant from a pantry in accordance with dietary  
15 recommendations set by a registered dietitian or qualified clinical team;**

**16 (3) "Medically tailored meals", meals used to meet the specific dietary needs of  
17 individuals living with one or more chronic conditions or diet-related conditions. Such**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets ~~thus~~ in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 meals are prescribed by a registered dietitian or qualified clinical team and home-  
19 delivered for individuals who are not able to prepare food on their own;

20 (4) "Prescription micronutrient therapy", the provision of vitamins or single-  
21 nutrient supplements used primarily for the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or  
22 prevention of disease, and not primarily for general health or wellness, consistent with  
23 the federal definition of "medical care";

24 (5) "Produce prescriptions", the prescription of fruits, vegetables, or other  
25 healthy foods with no added fats, sugars, or salts to at-risk patients by a registered  
26 dietitian or qualified clinical team, typically in the form of coupons or vouchers for local  
27 farmers' markets, grocery stores, or mobile markets.

28 3. The department of social services shall apply to the Centers for Medicare and  
29 Medicaid Services of the federal Department of Health and Human Services for a  
30 Section 1115 demonstration waiver to implement the "Food is Medicine" program for  
31 the purpose of providing nutritional support through the MO HealthNet program. The  
32 food is medicine program shall be designed to improve health outcomes for MO  
33 HealthNet participants with nutrition-related chronic diseases through nutrition  
34 services and to reduce the need for medical care for those participants.

35 4. Nutrition services covered under this program may include, but shall not be  
36 limited to, the following:

37 (1) Case management;

38 (2) Nutrition counseling; and

39 (3) Food provisions prescribed by a registered dietitian or qualified clinical  
40 team, including:

41 (a) Medically tailored groceries;

42 (b) Medically tailored meals;

43 (c) Produce prescriptions; and

44 (d) Prescription micronutrient therapy, including coverage of vitamins when  
45 clinically indicated.

46 5. Whenever feasible, the MO HealthNet division shall prioritize the inclusion of  
47 community-based organizations and local growers to support the purchase of locally  
48 grown food in nutrition prescriptions.

49 6. The department of social services shall promulgate all necessary rules and  
50 regulations for the administration of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that  
51 term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this  
52 section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the  
53 provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter  
54 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly

55 pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul  
56 a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority  
57 and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2026, shall be invalid and void.

✓