

STATE OF NEW YORK

7858

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

May 28, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. SOLAGES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to requiring the introduction of training in nutrition for physicians

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section
2 264 to read as follows:

3 § 264. Coursework or training in nutrition. 1. Every physician
4 licensed under article one hundred thirty-one of the education law
5 shall, on or before July first, two thousand twenty-four and every four
6 years thereafter, complete three hours of coursework or training
7 approved by the department regarding nutrition.

8 2. Every physician licensed on or after July first, two thousand twen-
9 ty-four under article one hundred thirty-one of the education law shall
10 complete such coursework or training within one year of such registra-
11 tion and once within each four-year period thereafter.

12 3. The commissioner, in consultation with the department of education,
13 shall establish standards and review and approve coursework or training
14 in nutrition and diet and shall publish information related to such
15 standards, coursework or training on the department's website. The
16 department shall consult with organizations representative of
17 professions and those with expertise in nutrition in establishing such
18 standards.

19 4. Coursework or training in nutrition as required by this section may
20 include: general nutrition throughout the lifecycle; nutrition assess-
21 ment; the role of nutrition in disease prevention, management and treat-
22 ment; nutrition topics related to medical specialties such as obstetrics
23 and gynecology, cardiology, pediatrics, and oncology; food insecurity,
24 food insecurity screenings, and the impact of food insecurity on health;

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 the role of dietitians and when to make referrals; and obesity treatment
2 and prevention.

3 5. Existing coursework or training, including coursework or training
4 developed by a nationally recognized health care professional, special-
5 ty, or provider association, or nationally recognized nutrition or
6 dietician organization, may be considered in implementing this subdivi-
7 sion.

8 6. Every physician shall provide to the department documentation that
9 demonstrates that such physician has completed the coursework or train-
10 ing required under this section. The department shall provide a stand-
11 ardized form or other streamlined process for submitting such documenta-
12 tion.

13 7. The department shall institute a procedure for application for an
14 exemption from the nutrition training requirements of this section. The
15 department may provide an exemption from the coursework and training
16 required by this subdivision to any such licensed person who clearly
17 demonstrates to the department's satisfaction that:

18 a. there would be no need for him or her to complete such coursework
19 or training; or

20 b. he or she has completed coursework or training deemed by the
21 department to be equivalent to the coursework or training approved by
22 the department pursuant to this subdivision.

23 8. Nothing herein shall preclude such coursework or training in diet
24 and nutrition from counting toward continuing education requirements of
25 a nationally accredited medical board to the extent acceptable to such
26 board.

27 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.