

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 579

BY REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT JOHNSON

DIETITIANS: Provides relative to the delivery of nutrition services

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 37:3083(1)(f), relative to nutrition services; to authorize a licensed dietitian  
3 or nutritionist to directly order dietary plans; to authorize a licensed dietitian or  
4 nutritionist to directly request laboratory tests; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 37:3083(1)(f) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §3083. Definitions

8 As used in this Chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

9 (1) "Dietetics/nutrition practice" means the integration and application of  
10 principles derived from the sciences of nutrition, biochemistry, food, physiology,  
11 management, behavioral, and social sciences to achieve and maintain client health  
12 through the provision of nutrition care services, which shall include:

13 \* \* \*

14 (f) Within a healthcare facility licensed by the Department of Health and  
15 Hospitals, ordering appropriate nutritional intake, including enteral and parenteral  
16 nutrition, and ordering appropriate laboratory tests to monitor the effectiveness of  
17 the dietary plan, subject to the approval of and authorization by the licensed  
18 healthcare facility's medical staff or bylaws.

19 \* \* \*

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 579 Engrossed

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Robert Johnson

**Abstract:** Authorizes a licensed dietitian or nutritionist to directly order dietary plans for patients and to request laboratory tests for monitoring the effectiveness of dietary plans.

Present law authorizes a licensed dietitian or nutritionist to assess nutritional needs and recommend a dietary plan to the patient's primary healthcare provider.

Proposed law retains present law and further authorizes a licensed dietitian or nutritionist employed by a healthcare facility licensed by the Dept. of Health and Hospitals to directly order the dietary plan and appropriate laboratory tests to monitor the effectiveness of the dietary plan subject to the approval of and authorization by the licensed healthcare facility's medical staff or bylaws.

(Amends R.S. 37:3083(1)(f))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Restore present law.
2. Limit the authority to directly order the dietary plan and laboratory tests to dietitians and nutritionists employed by a healthcare facility licensed by DHH subject to approval of the facility.
3. Make technical changes.