



DOAA

Georgia Department
of Audits & Accounts

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

January 13, 2026

Honorable Kim Schofield
State Representative
608-G Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note
House Bill 11 (LC 52 o88oS)

Dear Representative Schofield:

This bill would require the Department of Community Health (DCH) to establish and maintain an online food and nutrition service training program for food and nutrition service personnel working in long-term care facilities. The program would be integrated into course offerings at Technical College System of Georgia and University System of Georgia institutions. Long-term care facilities would be required to designate a director of food and nutrition services and provide a minimum of 15 minutes of food and nutrition services per resident per month. Each facility would be required to submit to DCH quarterly data on food and nutrition services, which DCH would compile into an annual report. The bill does not have an effective date.

Based on information from DCH, the bill would result in annual and one-time costs as described in **Table 1**. Details of the estimate are included below the table.

Table 1. Additional Costs for DCH

	Annual Costs	One-Time Costs
Compliance Specialist	\$130,739	
Cost Allocation	\$200,000	
Continuing Education Development Contract	\$325,000	
Nutritional Program Consulting Contract		<u>\$575,000</u>
Total	\$655,739	\$575,000

- **Compliance specialist** – The agency would need one employee to oversee the program and ensure compliance by long-term care facilities. The annual costs include salary and benefits.
- **Cost allocation** – The cost allocation between the state and federal government would also need to be modified, because state-required regulations cannot be allocated to federal fund sources. The \$200,000 cost estimate is based on an existing financial management cost allocation.

- **Nutrition Education Consultant** – DCH does not have the expertise to develop a nutrition service training program. It would contract with a third-party at an estimated cost of \$575,000 to develop the program (one-time) and \$325,000 to develop annual continuing education (annual/recurring). These estimates are based on the cost of an existing contract to develop an education/training program for the Healthcare Facility Regulation Division.

State Quality Recognition and Civil Monetary Penalty Reinvestment Funds

The bill would allow a long-term care facility that demonstrates a 10 percent reduction in nutrition related hospital admissions to be eligible for state quality recognition and priority access to Civil Money Penalty (CMP) Reinvestment Funds. DCH noted those funds may only be provided to federally regulated facilities and that the definition of a long-term care facility includes some facilities with only a state license. An incentive program that includes all long-term care facilities would require additional state funds.

Respectfully,



Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor



Richard Dunn, Director
Office of Planning and Budget

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