A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend the Health-Care and Community Residence Facility Hospice and Home Care Licensure Act of 1983 to require hospitals to serve healthful foods and beverages to patients, staff, and visitors.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Healthy Hospitals Amendment Act of 2019.”

Sec. 2. The Health-Care and Community Residence Facility, Hospice, and Home Care Licensure Act of 1983, effective February 24, 1984 (D.C. Law 5-48; D.C. Official Code § 44-5014 et seq.), is amended as follows:

(a) Section 2(a) (D.C. Official Code § 44-501(a)) is amended as follows:

(1) A new paragraph (11) is added to read as follows:

“(11) “Processed meat” means meat that has been transformed through salting, curing, fermentation, smoking, or other processes to enhance flavor or improve preservation, including hot dogs, sausages, bacon, and turkey bacon.”.

(2) A new paragraph (X) is added to read as follows:
“(12) “Sugar-sweetened beverage” means a non-alcoholic beverage containing added sugars. The term “sugar-sweetened beverage” shall not include:

“(A) Beverages in which milk or a milk substitute is the primary ingredient;

“(B) 100% fruit or vegetable juice with no added sugars;

“(C) Unsweetened drinks to which a person can add sugar or sweetener, such as unsweetened coffee or tea;

“(D) Beverages with fewer than 5 grams of added sugars per 8 ounces;

“(E) Infant formula; and

“(F) Medically necessary foods and beverages.”.

(b) Section 5 (D.C. Official Code § 44-504) is amended by adding a new subsection (l) to read as follows:

“(l) As part of the standards for hospitals required by subsection (a)(3) of this section, the Mayor shall establish nutritional standards for foods provided or sold in hospitals. At a minimum, these standards shall require for all patient meals and in all hospital venues, including in cafeterias and cafes, and at meetings and events, that:

“(1) Hospitals shall make available to patients, staff, and visitors a variety of healthful foods, including vegetarian and 100% plant-based meals, and meals that are low in saturated fat, sodium, and added sugars, and shall ensure that all patients, staff, and visitors are made aware of these options through appropriate menu listings, signage, or other means;

“(2) Hospitals shall eliminate processed meats from all menus; and

“(3) Hospitals shall provide and promote healthful beverages as follows:
“(A) Sugar-sweetened beverages shall not be provided in patient meals, except where necessary for therapeutic purposes;

“(B) For vending machines:

“(i) At least 75% of beverage options shall not be sugar-sweetened beverages;

“(ii) Water and sparkling water shall be placed at eye level, or in the highest selling position, and sugar-sweetened beverages shall be placed farthest from eye level, or in the lowest selling position; and

“(iii) Sugar-sweetened beverages shall be 16 ounces or less; and

“(C) For hospital cafeterias and cafes:

“(i) At least 75% of beverage options shall not be sugar-sweetened beverages;

“(ii) All sugar-sweetened beverages must be 16 ounces or less; and

“(iii) Water must be available at no charge.”.

Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.


Sec. 4. Effective date.

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(l) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(l)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.