

SECTION 1.

(1)(a): if only allowed to serve 100 percent plant-based beverages, this would rule out water and include only beverages such as juices and soy milk to meet all fluid needs. Drinking juice is associated with higher rates of diabetes and neither juice nor soy milk are calorie free. Providing 100 percent plant-based beverages to meet fluid needs is not healthy. Water is calorie free and necessary for body functions, but it is not "plant-based".

(3): the cost associated with maintaining such a menu is prohibitive and a distraction to the effective functioning of a hospital menu. A 100 percent plant-based menu cannot provide 100 percent of RDAs and DVI's through food sources alone and would therefore make hospital menus out of compliance with other regulations which require providing nutritionally complete menus. Such meals can be offered without the need to maintain a menu.

(5)(c): it is highly suspect to find this section about processed meats in a bill about plant-based meals.

Nowhere in this summary does it discuss ensuring that there is variety or complete nutrients provided by such meals. As such, corrections could provide beans and rice three times per day and meet the requirements without meeting the nutritional needs for a healthy human body.

At a time when hospitals and corrections institutions are fighting COVID, implementing new menu requirements is an unnecessary and costly burden.