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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5517

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Berkey, Kauffman, Haugen, Eide, Kastama, Schoesler, Shin, Hatfield, Keiser, Rasmussen, Kline and Regala)

READ FIRST TIME 03/02/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing the personal needs allowance for  
2 persons receiving state-financed care; adding a new section to chapter  
3 74.09 RCW; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that through the  
6 medicaid program, state and federal government fund long-term care,  
7 mental health, and medical services for many elderly persons and people  
8 with disabilities, both in institutions and in community alternatives.  
9 The legislature also finds that a significant portion of these  
10 individuals' social security benefits is retained by the state to  
11 assist with the cost of their care. The legislature intends that these  
12 individuals retain for their own use a reasonable personal needs  
13 allowance which may be used to purchase clothing, postage, barber  
14 services, travel, and other personal items not covered by their care  
15 setting, in order to ensure their autonomy and dignity.

16 (2) It is the intent of the legislature to adjust the personal  
17 needs allowance annually to reflect cost-of-living adjustments to  
18 federal social security benefits for medicaid-eligible residents in

1 institutions and community-based residential settings receiving long-  
2 term care, developmental disabilities, or mental health services.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09 RCW  
4 to read as follows:

5 Effective July 1, 2008, and each fiscal year thereafter, the  
6 personal needs allowance shall be adjusted for economic trends and  
7 conditions by increasing the allowance by the percentage cost-of-living  
8 adjustment for old-age, survivors, and disability social security  
9 benefits as published by the federal social security administration.  
10 However, in no case shall the personal needs allowance exceed the  
11 maximum personal needs allowance permissible under the federal social  
12 security act.

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