

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SENATE BILL 5118**

65th Legislature  
2017 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate March 1, 2017  
Yeas 49 Nays 0

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**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 5, 2017  
Yeas 96 Nays 1

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SENATE BILL 5118** as passed by Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

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**Secretary**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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SENATE BILL 5118

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Passed Legislature - 2017 Regular Session

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Rolfes, Bailey, Darneille, Billig, Keiser, Kuderer, and Chase

Read first time 01/13/17. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

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

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

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

18 (2) It is the intent of the legislature to adjust the personal  
19 needs allowance annually to reflect cost-of-living adjustments to  
20 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  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 Effective July 1, 2017, and each fiscal year thereafter, subject  
6 to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific  
7 purpose, the personal needs allowance shall be adjusted for economic  
8 trends and conditions by increasing the allowance by the percentage  
9 cost-of-living adjustment for old-age, survivors, and disability  
10 social security benefits as published by the federal social security  
11 administration. However, in no case shall the personal needs  
12 allowance exceed the maximum personal needs allowance permissible  
13 under the federal social security act.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 2 of this act is necessary for the  
15 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or  
16 support of the state government and its existing public institutions,  
17 and takes effect July 1, 2017.

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