
SENATE BILL 5118

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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