

Health Care Committee

HB 1341

Brief Description: *Developing a home and community-based waiver for persons in community residential settings.*

Sponsors: *Representatives Campbell, Conway, Boldt, Ruderman and Van Luven; by request of Department of Social and Health Services.*

Brief Summary of Bill

- *Establishes a new COPES waiver program allowing nursing home eligible individuals with income above \$1,590 per month to receive long-term care services in boarding homes and adult family homes.*

Hearing Date: *2/22/01*

Staff: *Antonio Sanchez (786-7383).*

Background:

The Community Options Program Entry System (COPES) is a federally matched long-term care waiver program. The COPES program provides long-term care services to individuals in adult family homes, boarding homes, nursing homes, or in their own home. Medicaid-funded long-term care in a persons own home or in a community residential facility (boarding home or adult family home) is currently only available for people with income under \$1,590 per month. However, individuals with income in excess of \$1,590 per month, while not able to participate in COPES for community based care, are eligible for COPES Medicaid-funded nursing home care. This is the result of a special program called medically needy- which is only applied in nursing home care. For individuals who want community based care but are over the \$1,590 per month income limit, their options are to pay privately for services if possible, to enter a nursing facility, or to go without services if they are unwilling to be placed in a nursing facility.

Individuals who have been admitted into a nursing home with incomes above \$1,590 are referred to as medically needy-and the program under which they are served is referred

to as the medically needy- program. They are eligible under this program because their income is less than the cost of that care. Since the state pays an average of about \$3,600 per month for nursing home care, this means that single people with incomes below about \$43,000 per year (\$3,588 per month), and \$60,000 per year for couples, can qualify for publically funded nursing home care under this program. This same income standard is not applied to community care. Medically needy- is provided under a waiver of federal rules that allows our state to limit the total number of persons served.

Summary of Bill:

A new waiver program is established that will allow nursing home eligible individuals with income above \$1,590 per month (COPES standard) to receive long-term care services in boarding homes and adult family homes. The Department of Social and Health Services is given authority to set the level of participation in this program.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 18, 2001.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.