
SENATE BILL 5196

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators Berkey, Swecker, Kauffman, Hobbs, King, Marr, Sheldon, Haugen, Franklin, Kilmer, Shin, Kohl-Welles, and McDermott

Read first time 01/16/09. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

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, 2011, 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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