
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6555

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Rolfes, Cleveland, Jayapal, Darneille, and Keiser)

READ FIRST TIME 02/09/16.

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; 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
8 people with disabilities, both in institutions and in community
9 alternatives. The legislature also finds that a significant portion
10 of these individuals' social security benefits is retained by the
11 state to assist with the cost of their care. The legislature intends
12 that these individuals retain for their own use a reasonable and
13 modest personal needs allowance which may be used to purchase
14 clothing, postage, barber services, travel, and other personal items
15 not covered by their care setting, in order to promote their autonomy
16 and personal dignity.

17 (2) It is the intent of the legislature to adjust the personal
18 needs allowance annually to reflect cost-of-living adjustments to
19 federal social security benefits for medicaid-eligible residents in
20 institutions and community-based residential settings receiving long-
21 term care, developmental disabilities, or mental health services.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09
2 RCW to read as follows:
3 Effective July 1, 2016, and each fiscal year thereafter, subject
4 to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific
5 purpose, the personal needs allowance shall be adjusted for economic
6 trends and conditions by increasing the allowance by the percentage
7 cost-of-living adjustment for old-age, survivors, and disability
8 social security benefits as published by the federal social security
9 administration. However, in no case shall the personal needs
10 allowance exceed the maximum personal needs allowance permissible
11 under the federal social security act.

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