

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 5745

C 164 L 22
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Increasing the personal needs allowance for persons receiving state financed care.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Liias, Keiser, Conway, Nobles and Wilson, C.).

Senate Committee on Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation
Senate Committee on Ways & Means
House Committee on Appropriations

Background: Federal law requires Medicaid recipients to contribute to the cost of long-term care. The contribution amount is determined by deducting certain amounts from a recipient's monthly income. One of the permitted deductions is the personal needs allowance (PNA), an amount of the Medicaid recipient's own income that can be kept and spent on personal items. After deducting the PNA and other allowable deductions, all remaining income goes toward the cost of care.

The PNA in Washington is \$71.12 per month for persons in nursing facilities or institutions, and for persons in residential care, such as in an adult family home or assisted living facility. The PNA for individuals living at home varies and is dependent on marital status. As an example, the current PNA for a single person is \$1,074.

Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance benefits are increased for inflation as published by the Social Security Administration. As of January 1, 2020, and subject to legislative appropriations, the PNA for clients being served in medical institutions and in residential settings is also adjusted for inflation.

Summary: Unless subject to a separate determination of a monthly maintenance needs allowance for a community spouse as specified in rule, beginning July 1 2022, the PNA for clients receiving at home and community-based waiver services authorized by home and community services while living at home is increased to 300 percent of the federal benefit

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

rate and shall not exceed the maximum personal needs allowance permissible under the federal Social Security Act.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	46	1
House	96	0

Effective: June 9, 2022