



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 537

February Session, 2000

House Bill No. 5530

House of Representatives, April 11, 2000

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. DYSON of the 94th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

An Act Concerning The Maximum Payment Under The Individual And Family Grant Disaster Relief Program.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 28-9d of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation, the
4 Governor is authorized to make financial grants to meet disaster-
5 related necessary expenses or serious needs of individuals or families
6 adversely affected by a disaster which cannot otherwise adequately be
7 met from other means of assistance, which shall not exceed [five
8 thousand dollars] in the aggregate the maximum payment established
9 by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to an individual or
10 family in any single disaster declared by the President.

11 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

HS	Committee Vote:	Yea	19	Nay	0	JF	C/R	APP
APP	Committee Vote:	Yea	50	Nay	0	JF		

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: Potential Future Cost

Affected Agencies: Department of Social Services

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation**State Impact:**

This bill eliminates the cap of \$5,000, set in 1975, for grants that the Governor can make to an individual or family for disaster related expenses. The bill specifies that the maximum payment should be that established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, currently set at \$13,600. Such grants are made from the Emergency Assistance account upon a declaration of a disaster by the President. The program receives 75% of its funding from the federal government, with the state required to fund the remaining 25%. This bill has no immediate fiscal impact as disaster relief funding is appropriated on an emergency basis and the actual level of the grants provided is set based on the nature and extent of the disaster experienced. There could be future indeterminate increased costs to the Department of Social Services if the levels of emergency grants in the future are higher than they would have been set without this bill.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5530

AN ACT CONCERNING THE MAXIMUM PAYMENT UNDER THE INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY GRANT DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM.**SUMMARY:**

This bill increases the maximum amount of money the governor (through the Department of Social Services (DSS)) can provide under the Individual and Family Grant Program (IFGP) to the federal maximum, which is currently \$13,600 in the aggregate for each disaster. Current law limits these grants to \$5,000. This program helps individuals and families pay for the repair or replacement of disaster-related, uninsured, damaged residential or personal property, as well as related medical, dental, funeral, or transportation costs. The federal government pays 75% of the costs and the state contributes 25%.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***IFGP***

To be eligible for a grant, an applicant must have uninsured or underinsured losses and have applied for and been denied a disaster loan from the U.S. Small Business Administration. The grants cannot be used to pay for improvements or additions to real or personal property, recreational property, luxury, or decorative items, or business or self-employment expenses. The maximum grant is adjusted each year for inflation. The Federal Emergency Management Agency does most of the program's administration; DSS does some, including writing the checks.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference
Yea 19 Nay 0

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 50 Nay 0