



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 11

January Session, 2013

House Bill No. 5765

House of Representatives, February 26, 2013

The Committee on Aging reported through REP. SERRA of the 33rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE
RESPIRE CARE PROGRAM.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 17b-349e of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2013*):

4 (c) (1) No individual with Alzheimer's disease may participate in the
5 program if such individual (A) has an annual income of more than
6 [forty-one] fifty thousand dollars or liquid assets of more than one
7 hundred nine thousand dollars, or (B) is receiving services under the
8 Connecticut home-care program for the elderly. On July 1, 2009, and
9 annually thereafter, the commissioner shall increase such income and
10 asset eligibility criteria over that of the previous fiscal year to reflect
11 the annual cost of living adjustment in Social Security income, if any.

12 (2) No individual with Alzheimer's disease who participates in the
13 program may receive more than three thousand five hundred dollars

14 for services under the program in any fiscal year or receive more than
 15 thirty days of out-of-home respite care services other than adult day
 16 care services under the program in any fiscal year, except that the
 17 commissioner shall adopt regulations pursuant to subsection (d) of this
 18 section to provide up to seven thousand five hundred dollars for
 19 services to a participant in the program who demonstrates a need for
 20 additional services.

21 (3) The commissioner may require an individual with Alzheimer's
 22 disease who participates in the program to pay a copayment for respite
 23 care services under the program, except the commissioner may waive
 24 such copayment upon demonstration of financial hardship by such
 25 individual.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	17b-349e(c)

AGE *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill expands the income eligibility requirements for the Alzheimer's Respite program. As this program is not an entitlement and is operated within available appropriations, these changes are not expected to result in any additional costs to the state. The Department of Social Services currently manages the amount of services allocated to each enrollee in order to not exceed the program's appropriation, and would be expected to either reduce the number of people served or reduce the service provided to each enrollee.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5765

AN ACT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESPITE CARE PROGRAM.

SUMMARY:

This bill increases, from \$41,000 to \$50,000, the Statewide Respite Care Program's annual income limit and retains the existing asset limit of \$109,000. The program provides respite for caregivers who care for people with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders, regardless of age, who are not enrolled in the Connecticut Homecare Program for Elders. By law, the social services commissioner must annually increase the income and asset limits to reflect Social Security cost of living adjustments. The current limits were set in 2009 and have not been adjusted since then.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2013

BACKGROUND

Statewide Respite Care Program

By law, program participants are eligible to receive up to \$7,500 in services annually, depending on need. Services include homemaker and personal care assistant services, adult day care, short-term medical facility care, home health care, and companion services.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 11 Nay 0 (02/14/2013)