
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 883

AN ACT CONCERNING A COMMUNITY SPOUSE'S ALLOWABLE ASSETS.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the social services commissioner to amend the Medicaid state plan to require that the spouse of someone in an institution (i.e., nursing home) who remains in the community be allowed to receive the maximum amount of assets allowed by federal law (\$115,920 in 2013). Currently, the spouse can keep half of the couple's combined assets, up to that maximum.

The commissioner must adopt regulations to implement this change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Community Spouse Protected Amount

Federal Medicaid law allows the spouse of someone living in a long-term care institution to keep some of the couple's assets to ensure the spouse living in the community does not become impoverished. The amount retained by the non-institutionalized spouse is referred to as the community spouse protected amount (CSPA). The maximum and minimum CSPAs are set by federal law and the state must update them yearly.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/07/2013)