
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5225

AN ACT INCREASING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CONNECTICUT HOME-CARE PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY.

SUMMARY:

This bill increases the asset limit for participants in the state-funded portion of the Connecticut Home-Care Program for Elders (CHCPE) to \$40,000 if single and \$65,000 if married. It also eliminates the link between the asset limit and the minimum community spouse protected amount (CSPA). Current law limits an individual's assets to 150% of the minimum CSPA if single (\$35,172 in 2014), or 200% if married (\$46,896 in 2014).

By law, state-funded CHCPE participants must contribute to the cost of their care. Under current law, those with incomes of up to 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) must contribute 7% of the cost of care; those with incomes greater than 200% FPL must contribute 7% of the cost of care plus an applied income amount determined by the Department of Social Services. The bill reduces these percentages to 6%. In 2014, 200% of the FPL is \$23,340 for an individual and \$31,460 for a family of two.

CHCPE is a Medicaid-waiver and state-funded program that provides home- and community-based services for eligible individuals age 65 and older who are at risk of institutionalization. Services include care management, adult day care, homemaker services, transportation, meals-on-wheels, minor home modifications, and certain personal care and assisted living services.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

COMMITTEE ACTION

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/11/2014)