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## OLR Bill Analysis

### SB 157

#### ***AN ACT REDUCING PARTICIPANT COSTS AND EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CONNECTICUT HOME-CARE PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY.***

#### **SUMMARY**

Starting July 1, 2018, this bill expands eligibility for the state-funded portion of the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE) by increasing asset limits to \$40,000 if single and \$65,000 if married. Current law limits an eligible individual's assets to 150% of the minimum community spouse protected amount (CSPA) if single or 200% if married (currently \$37,080 and \$49,440, respectively). The bill also eliminates annual adjustments to these asset limits by removing the link to the CSPA, which is updated annually.

Additionally, the bill reduces the required co-payment from nine percent to seven percent of the cost of care for participants in the state-funded portion of CHCPE who do not live in affordable housing under certain subsidized housing programs. By law, participants with incomes greater than 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) must also contribute an applied income amount determined by the Department of Social Services. Applied income is calculated by subtracting certain allowances (e.g., for personal needs and spousal support) from resident's gross income. In 2018, 200% of the FPL is \$24,280 for an individual and \$32,920 for a family of two.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders***

CHCPE provides a range of home and community-based services for individuals age 65 and older who are at risk for institutionalization.

In comparison to the Medicaid waiver component, the state-funded portion of the program has no income limit and has higher asset limits. The state has authority to limit program enrollment or establish wait lists based on available resources.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/15/2018)