
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 158

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

SUMMARY

Starting July 1, 2018, this bill expands eligibility for individuals with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders to participate in the state's Respite Care Program (see BACKGROUND). It does so by (1) increasing the program's annual income limit from \$45,619 to \$51,000 and (2) decreasing its annual liquid asset limit from \$121,283 to \$120,000. (Current income and asset limits reflect annual Social Security cost of living adjustments.) Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, participants cannot enroll in the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders.

The bill also (1) eliminates the requirement that the commissioner operate the program within available appropriations and (2) makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018

BACKGROUND

Statewide Respite Care Program

By law, the Respite Care Program provides respite for caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders. Program participants may receive up to \$7,500 in services annually, depending on need. The program provides homemaker, personal care assistant, adult day care, short-term medical and facility care, home health care, and companion services. Participants may be required to pay a portion of the cost.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/15/2018)