OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6172

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

SUMMARY

Starting July 1, 2019, 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 federal minimum community spouse protected amount (CSPA) if single or 200% if married (currently $37,926 and $50,568, respectively). The bill also eliminates annual adjustments to these asset limits by removing the reference 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 (1) do not live in affordable housing under certain subsidized housing programs and (2) are ineligible for Medicaid. 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 the participant’s gross income. In 2019, 200% of the FPL is $24,980 for an individual and $33,820 for a family of two.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

BACKGROUND

Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders
CHCPE is a Medicaid waiver and state-funded program that provides a range of home- and community-based services for eligible individuals age 65 or older who are at risk of inappropriate institutionalization (e.g., nursing home placement). 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 13  Nay 0  (02/20/2019)