
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 946

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT HOME-CARE PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to compensate family caregivers, including spouses, who provide personal care assistance services in the Connecticut Home-Care Program for the Elderly (CHCPE). CHCPE is a Medicaid waiver- and state-funded program that offers a range of home- and community-based services for eligible people ages 65 or older who are at risk of inappropriate institutionalization. The bill's requirement to compensate family caregivers is generally limited to the extent allowed under federal law, but this limit does not apply to the state-funded portion of the program.

The bill also reduces cost sharing for the state funded portion of the program from 3% to 2% of service costs (see below).

Lastly, the bill removes obsolete provisions and makes a technical change to reference "adult family living" rather than "elderly foster care."

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

CHCPE COST SHARING REDUCTION

The bill reduces cost sharing for the state funded portion of the program from 3% to 2% of service costs as shown in the table below.

Table: CHCPE Participant Cost Sharing Under Current Law and the Bill

<i>Participant Category</i>	<i>Cost Sharing Under Current Law</i>	<i>Cost Sharing Under the Bill</i>
Participants with income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level	3% of care costs/ month	2% of care costs/ month

Participant Category	Cost Sharing Under Current Law	Cost Sharing Under the Bill
(FPL)* and Medicaid-ineligible		
Participants with income greater than 200% FPL	3% of care costs/ month and an applied income amount (calculated by subtracting certain personal needs allowances from gross income)	2% of care costs/ month and the applied income amount
Participants living in government-subsidized affordable housing programs	An applied income copay if income is greater than 200% FPL	No change
* In 2023, 200% of the FPL is \$29,160 for an individual and \$39,440 for a family of two		

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

sSB 412, favorably reported by the Appropriations and Human Services committees, requires DSS to raise the rate for adult complex care nursing services to equal the pediatric rate for these services, which are provided by home health care agencies or home health aide agencies in DSS programs.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference - APP
Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/16/2023)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 47 Nay 1 (04/21/2023)