



Senate Aging and Youth Committee

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Summary HB 1830 PN 2585

This legislation amends the Family Caregiver Support Act by increasing certain reimbursement amounts to the primary caregivers of functionally dependent older adults and adults with chronic dementia and by making the act more consistent with the National Family Caregiver Support Program.

The definition of primary caregiver is expanded to include unrelated individuals and the requirement that the primary caregiver reside in the home of the care receiver on a continuous basis is eliminated. Reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses is increased from a maximum of \$200 per month to \$500 per month. The maximum reimbursement per case for home modifications or assisted devices is increased from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

Lastly, priority in awarding any funding from the State Lottery Fund is given to older adults and a section is added to clarify that services are only available to the extent of the appropriations made by the General Assembly.

Effective Date

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

Background

In order to be eligible for the reimbursement, the care receiver must have household income under 200% of the federal poverty guideline. A sliding benefits scale is determined by the Department of Aging through regulation for individuals with household income up to 380% of the federal poverty guideline.

The 06-07 total appropriation for the program was \$22 million. \$9 million was state funds and \$12 million was federal. In past years, existing state appropriations for the program were not exhausted. There was \$411,000 remaining in 05-06 and over \$300,000 in 04-05. This would be the first adjustment to the reimbursement levels since the original enactment in 1990.

Amendment 04612

This amendment makes several clarifying and technical changes by including "primary" in front of the word "caregiver" where appropriate and adding a definition of federal poverty guidelines.