

1 H.85

2 Introduced by Representative Haas of Rochester

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Human services; Medicaid; nursing homes; personal needs allowance

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to increase by
7 \$25.00 per person per month the State's fiscal year 2020 contribution to the
8 personal needs allowance for individuals residing in nursing homes who
9 receive Supplemental Security Income or Medicaid, or both. It would require
10 the Secretary of Human Services to increase the personal needs allowance
11 amount annually beginning in fiscal year 2021 based on the rate of inflation.

12 An act relating to increasing the personal needs allowance for certain
13 nursing home residents

14 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

15 Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 1307 is amended to read:

16 § 1307. AMOUNT OF STATE AID

17 (a) The amount of State aid to which an eligible person is entitled shall be
18 determined with due regard to the income, resources, and maintenance
19 available to him or her and, when an eligible person lives with his or her
20 ineligible spouse or a needy essential person, or both, as defined by the

1 Commissioner, with due regard to the needs of the ineligible spouse and with
2 due regard to the needs, income, and resources of the needy essential person.
3 ~~As far as~~ To the extent funds are available, aid shall provide a reasonable
4 subsistence compatible with decency and health. The Commissioner for
5 Children and Families may ~~by regulation fix,~~ by rule, set maximum amounts of
6 aid and take measures to ~~insure~~ ensure that the expenditures for the programs
7 shall not exceed the funds provided for them.

8 (b) The Secretary of Human Services shall provide an annual adjustment to
9 the amount of the monthly personal needs allowance for individuals who reside
10 in a nursing home, as defined in section 7102 of this title, and receive
11 Supplemental Security Income. The annual adjustment amount shall be
12 calculated using the rate of inflation, as determined by the Consumer Price
13 Index.

14 Sec. 2. 33 V.S.A. § 1902b is added to read:

15 § 1902b. MEDICAID PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE

16 The Secretary of Human Services shall provide an annual adjustment to the
17 amount of the monthly personal needs allowance for Medicaid beneficiaries
18 who reside in a nursing home, as defined in section 7102 of this title. The
19 annual adjustment amount shall be calculated using the rate of inflation, as
20 determined by the Consumer Price Index.

1 Sec. 3. PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE RESET

2 The State's contribution to the monthly personal needs allowance amount
3 for individuals who reside in a nursing home and receive Medicaid or
4 Supplemental Security Income, or both, shall increase by \$25.00 per person
5 per month in fiscal year 2020. Beginning in fiscal year 2021 and annually
6 thereafter, the State's contribution to the personal needs allowance amount
7 shall be increased as set forth in 33 V.S.A. §§ 1307 and 1902b.

8 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

9 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.