

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Human Services to which was referred House Bill No.
3 85 entitled “An act relating to increasing the personal needs allowance for
4 certain nursing home residents” respectfully reports that it has considered the
5 same and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the
6 enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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

8 § 1307. AMOUNT OF STATE AID

9 (a) The amount of State aid to which an eligible person is entitled shall be
10 determined with due regard to the income, resources, and maintenance
11 available to him or her and, when an eligible person lives with his or her
12 ineligible spouse or a needy essential person, or both, as defined by the
13 Commissioner, with due regard to the needs of the ineligible spouse and with
14 due regard to the needs, income, and resources of the needy essential person.
15 ~~As far as~~ To the extent funds are available, aid shall provide a reasonable
16 subsistence compatible with decency and health. The Commissioner for
17 Children and Families may ~~by regulation fix,~~ by rule, set maximum amounts of
18 aid and take measures to ~~insure~~ ensure that the expenditures for the programs
19 shall not exceed the funds provided for them.

20 (b) The Secretary of Human Services shall provide an annual adjustment to
21 the amount of the monthly supplement for Medicaid beneficiaries who reside

1 in a nursing home, as defined in section 7102 of this title, and receive
2 Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The annual adjustment amount shall be
3 calculated by increasing the total amount of a beneficiary's SSI and State
4 supplement by the amount of the cost-of-living adjustment, if any, determined
5 by the Social Security Administration to be applicable to the SSI program for
6 the forthcoming calendar year.

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

8 § 1902b. MEDICAID PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE

9 The Secretary of Human Services shall provide an annual adjustment to the
10 amount of the monthly personal needs allowance for all Medicaid beneficiaries
11 who reside in a nursing home, as defined in section 7102 of this title. The
12 annual adjustment amount shall be calculated by increasing the personal needs
13 allowance by the amount of the cost-of-living adjustment, if any, determined
14 by the Social Security Administration to be applicable to the Supplemental
15 Security Income program for the forthcoming calendar year.

16 Sec. 3. PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE RESET

17 (a) The amount of the State supplement for Medicaid beneficiaries who
18 reside in a nursing home and receive Supplemental Security Income shall
19 increase by \$25.00 per person per month on January 1, 2020. Beginning on
20 January 1, 2021 and annually thereafter, the amount of the State supplement
21 shall be increased as set forth in 33 V.S.A. § 1307.

1 (b) The amount of the personal needs allowance for all Medicaid
2 beneficiaries who reside in a nursing home shall increase by \$25.00 per person
3 per month on January 1, 2020. Beginning on January 1, 2021 and annually
4 thereafter, the amount of the personal needs allowance shall be increased as set
5 forth in 33 V.S.A. § 1902b.

6 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

7 (a) Secs. 1 (33 V.S.A. § 1307) and 2 (33 V.S.A. § 1902b) shall take effect
8 on October 1, 2020 and shall apply beginning on January 1, 2021.

9 (b) Sec. 3 (personal needs allowance reset) shall take effect on October 1,
10 2019 and shall apply beginning on January 1, 2020.

11 (c) This section shall take effect on passage.

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18 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE