

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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HB-5301

AN ACT EXCLUDING SPOUSAL INCOME FROM CERTAIN RENT, FEE AND COST-SHARING CALCULATIONS RELATING TO HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES.

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## **OFA Fiscal Note**

### **State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill results in a potential cost to the Department of Social Services (DSS) by requiring the agency to disregard earned income for spousal caregivers who provide at least 25% of daily care for partners receiving Medicaid-funded home- and community-based services (HCBS).

Currently, when someone applies for HCBS under a Medicaid waiver, DSS does not consider the applicant spouse's income when determining eligibility for the program.

However, to the extent DSS determines that an individual must contribute to their cost of care once eligible, the state may incur a potential cost related to an increased Community Spouse Allowance (CSA) deduction because of not counting the spouse's income in the calculation.

The cost to the state is dependent upon 1) how many HCBS individuals must contribute to their cost of care, and 2) how many of

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these individuals have spouses who provide at least 25% of their daily care.

***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and shifts in Medicaid enrollment.