
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5300

AN ACT CONCERNING COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS TO LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY RESIDENTS' PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Social Services commissioner to annually increase the personal needs allowance (PNA) for Medicaid recipients living in long-term care facilities. Specifically, starting July 1, 2026, the commissioner must annually increase the amount by 25% of any annual cost of living adjustment in the federal Supplemental Security Income Program. Under current law, the PNA is set at \$75 per month. Covered facilities include nursing homes, chronic disease hospitals, intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, and state humane institutions.

Residents of these facilities who receive Medicaid apply their monthly income (e.g., Social Security) towards the cost of their care. But federal law allows them to keep a portion of this income (the PNA) to pay for incidental items, such as haircuts, telephone expenses, and newspapers, or for hobbies. Facilities deposit the PNA into residents' personal fund accounts.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/05/2026)