



Summary of Senate Bill 98 Adult Home Care; Adult Adoption, Version W May 2, 2022

CSSB98(FIN) provides elderly Alaskans and adults with disabilities who are enrolled in Medicaid home and community-based waiver services with a new living option: **Adult Home Care**. The bill establishes a new licensed residential setting type and a new certified service to be overseen by the Department of Health. Under SB98, the department will develop a streamlined process for foster parents who have cared for foster children with disabilities to transfer their existing foster home license to the new adult home care home license. The bill aims to provide an incentive for foster families to remain together as the disabled child ages out of the foster care system.

SB 98 also amends an unrelated portion of adoption statutes to allow one member of a married couple to adopt an adult if the spouse consents.

Why is SB98 needed?

This bill will help address the shortage of services and settings for seniors and other individuals who require help with the activities of daily living and other assistance to live more independently. SB98 creates an option that may enable some people to remain in a community setting when they might otherwise need to leave their communities and move into an institution, such as a nursing home.

What is the cost of developing the new Adult Home Care setting and service?

Adult Home Care will serve as an alternative to existing service and setting options that will be less expensive than some, and more expensive than others. The department expects that Adult Home Care will grow in popularity and ultimately be an attractive alternative to more expensive options.

Examples of current living options for seniors and individuals with disabilities and the associated daily costs: *

- Live at home and receive personal care services and waiver services. Daily Cost - \$284
- Live in an Assisted Living Home and receive Group Home Services and other waiver services. Daily Cost - \$416
- Live in a Nursing Home and receive no waiver services. Daily Cost - \$771

NEW OPTION:

- ✓ Live in an Adult Home Care Home, receive personal care and other waiver services. Daily Cost - \$358

The Department would need two staff to develop, launch, and administer the new residential setting and waiver service. An additional staff person would be added a few years after implementation, assuming Adult Home Care is a popular service and the number of homes offering this service increases.

*These options and costs are based on typical scenarios and estimated costs for individuals receiving home and community-based waiver services. The cost for the new Adult Home Care Service will be established by the Department of Health, Office of Rate Review.