

**FY17 OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT** #15

**OFFERED IN:** The Senate Finance Committee

**TO:** SB 139

**OFFERED BY:** Senators Kelly & Micciche

**DEPARTMENT:** Health and Social Services

**APPROPRIATION:** Public Assistance

**ALLOCATION:** Senior Benefits Payment Program

**Add a new section titled Health and Social Services following section 13 to read:**

Sec. XX. If the amount necessary to pay benefits under 47.45.302(b)(1) and (2) exceeds the amount appropriated for that purpose in sec. 1 of this Act, the amount necessary, estimated to be \$0, to pay those benefits is appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Health and Social Services, Public Assistance, Senior Benefits Payment Program, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017.

**EXPLANATION:** This amendment ensures that the funding for the Senior Benefits Payment Program will be sufficient to fund the statutory payments to the bottom two (of three) lowest income groups (i.e., \$250/month for seniors between 0% and 75% of FPL, and \$175/month for seniors at 76% to 100% of the FPL). This amendment does not provide funding to pay benefits to seniors with incomes at 101% to 175% of the FPL (i.e., the highest income group under 47.45.302(b)(3)).