

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number:

Bill Version:

**SB238**

() Publish Date:

Identifier (file name): SB238-DHSS-SDMS-1-29-10

Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services

Title Medicaid for Medical & Intermediate Care

RDU Senior and Disability Services

Component Senior and Disability Medicaid Services

Sponsor Davis

Requester Senate HSS

Component Number 2662

## Expenditures/Revenue

(Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information					
		FY 2011	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>							
Personal Services							
Travel							
Contractual							
Supplies							
Equipment							
Land & Structures							
Grants & Claims							
Miscellaneous							
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>							
----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES</b>							
---------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

## FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF							
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other Interagency Receipts							
<b>TOTAL</b>		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2010) cost: \_\_\_\_\_

## POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

## ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill would increase the Medicaid income eligibility standard for individuals who reside in medical institutions, typically nursing facilities. This standard is also used for people who receive home and community-based waiver services. Currently, this standard is fixed at \$1,656 per month. The bill would increase the amount to 300 percent of the federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) monthly benefit, which is currently \$674, adjusted for cost of living each year. Initially, the new standard for Medicaid nursing facility residents and waiver recipients would be \$2,022 per month.

DHSS does not anticipate that increasing the monthly standard for this eligibility category will increase the number of Medicaid recipients receiving services. While this is contrary to DHSS expectations when the Legislature fixed the standard at a set dollar amount in 2003, experience shows that as individuals receive cost of living increases in pensions or Social Security payments that raise their incomes over \$1,656 per month, they use Medicaid qualifying income trusts to reduce their countable income below that amount and continue to qualify for Medicaid.  
(Continued on Page 2).

Prepared by: William J. Streur, Deputy Commissioner  
Division: DHSS Health Care Services

Phone 269-7827  
Date/Time 1/29/10 12:00 AM

Approved by: Alison Elgee, Assistant Commissioner  
DHSS Finance & Management Services

Date 1/29/2010

**ANALYSIS CONTINUATION**

Another consideration is that Medicaid recipients who qualify under this institutional income standard are required to make a contribution toward the cost of the Medicaid institutional or waiver services they receive if their countable income exceeds the personal needs allowance established for their living arrangement. The personal needs allowance for people on waivers has historically been set in regulation and the amount varies depending on the person's living situation, and is not linked to the institutional income standard. DHSS has not assumed an increase to the personal needs allowance. Therefore, DHSS does not anticipate an increase in Medicaid spending as a result of this legislation. If DHSS increased the personal needs allowance in conjunction with increasing the income eligibility standard, it would increase Medicaid expenditures.