

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: SB 238
 (S) Publish Date: 2/3/10

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	FY 2016
OPERATING EXPENDITURE								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE								
CHANGE IN REVENUES								

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

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

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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.