

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 218 (Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee)
(By Request – Departmental – Health and Mental Hygiene)
Health and Government Operations Finance

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Living at Home Waiver Program

This departmental bill repeals the Community Attendant Services and Supports Program under the Department of Human Resources and reenacts the program as the Living at Home Waiver Program under the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The bill expands eligibility for the program to individuals at least age 18 and younger than age 65 at the time of enrollment and repeals the requirement for quarterly reporting to the General Assembly on the status of the program.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill generally codifies existing practice. However, the bill does expand eligibility for the program to persons ages 60 to 65. Because enrollment is capped, no additional enrollment is expected under the bill.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: DHMH has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Community Attendant Services and Supports Program was transferred from DHR to DHMH through a memorandum of understanding on July

1, 2005. Under DHR (and current statute), the program served individuals at least age 21 and younger than age 60. DHR was required to report to the General Assembly quarterly about the program, including the number of individuals budgeted for the Medicaid home and community-based services waiver.

Under DHMH, the renamed Living at Home Waiver program is a statewide program for people with physical disabilities who are between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive, and need assistance with daily living. The program is designed to serve people who are currently in a nursing home with an interest in returning to the community and individuals living in the community who may need nursing home services but would like to remain in the community. The waiver program offers services including personal assistance, skilled nursing supervision, assistive technology, and personal emergency response systems. Eligible individuals must require a nursing facility level of care based on an assessment from their local health department. Eligibility is restricted to individuals with a monthly income of no more than 300% of Supplemental Security Income benefits and \$2,000 in assets. The bill largely codifies the program as it is currently provided by DHMH. It does, however, expand eligibility to individuals up to age 65.

The Living at Home Waiver Program is capped at 560 slots per year, with priority assigned to younger adults transitioning from nursing facilities to the community. As of October 2007, 1,807 individuals were listed on the waiver registry (better known as the waiting list).

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Human Resources, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

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