

Corrected
SESSION OF 2006

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 491

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Ways and Means

Brief*

SB 491 would allow the head of the designated Medicaid state agency to increase the personal needs allowance for persons residing in Medicaid approved institutions from \$30 per month to \$60 per month and adopt appropriate rules and regulations to implement this change. In the case of persons who are not receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI), the bill would shift an additional \$30 per month of expenses to the state Medicaid program. In the case of persons who are receiving SSI, the state would be required to provide an additional \$30 per month per individual.

SB 491 would allow the designated Medicaid state agency to make adjustments to the personal needs allowance for cost of living increases based on the annual average increased in the chained consumer price index for urban consumers for the previous calendar year published by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Background

SB 491 was introduced by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

Representatives of the American Association for Retired Persons (AARP), Disability Rights Center, and the Kansas Healthcare Association, spoke in support of the bill. Written testimony in support of the bill was submitted by Kansas Advocates for Better Care, the North East Kansas Area Agency on Aging, Kansas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, and the Kansas Area Agencies on Aging Association.

There were no opponents to the bill.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means amended the bill to increase the personal needs allowance from \$50 to \$60 per month, per person and increase the amount the state would provide to SSI recipients from \$20 to \$30 per month, per person. In addition, the Committee amended the language regarding the cost of living adjustments from “shall” to “may” and made a technical adjustment changing “Secretary of Social and Rehabilitation Services” to “head of the designated state Medicaid agency.”

The original fiscal note on the bill estimated the fiscal impact of SB 491 would be \$2.8 million, including \$1.2 million from the State General Fund. There was no amended fiscal note available at the time of this writing.