

SESSION OF 2020

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2549

As Recommended by House Committee on
Social Services Budget

Brief*

HB 2549 would require the Secretary of Health and Environment (Secretary) to adopt rules and regulations to set the monthly protected income level (PIL) to equal 150.0 percent of Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for any person receiving Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) under KanCare, including those receiving services through the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). The bill would require the Secretary to amend such rules and regulations as necessary to adjust the PIL for any increase to SSI.

Background

The bill would codify a proviso enacted in 2019 House Sub. for SB 25 that increased the PIL for Medicaid HCBS recipients and PACE recipients from \$747 per month to \$1,177 per month. This was approximately the same amount as 150.0 percent of SSI.

In the House Committee on Social Services Budget hearing, proponent testimony was provided by representatives of the Disability Rights Center of Kansas; KanCare Advocates Network; and Midland Care Connection, Inc. Proponents stated setting the PIL at 150.0 percent of SSI improves the quality of life for the impacted individuals by decreasing financial stress and medical debt, and allows them to engage in hobbies and other activities. Also,

*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>

proponents requested the Committee amend the bill to raise the PIL to 300.0 percent of SSI to allow employed individuals receiving HCBS services to keep more of their earned income and provide increased incentive to continue working.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by a family member of an individual receiving HCBS services and from representatives of Cottonwood, Inc.; Interhab; Kansas Advocates for Better Care; Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities; LeadingAge Kansas; Southeast Kansas Independent Living Resource Center; and Topeka Independent Resource Center. Written-only testimony highlighted benefits of an increased PIL, such as a greater ability to afford medication and accessible housing. Also, some written-only proponent testimony requested the PIL be raised to 300.0 percent of SSI, noting this would allow affected individuals increased independence and greater incentive to become employed.

No neutral or opponent testimony was provided.

Populations eligible for the Kansas Medicaid Assistance program through a category such as age or disability, but who do not qualify due to excess income, are required to pay a share of their medical costs before Medicaid funding is used. The PIL determines the amount of an individual's income that is protected, or ineligible to be used for medical costs.

No fiscal note was available when the Committee took action on the bill.