

SUBJECT: Raising personal needs allowance for residents of long-term care facilities

COMMITTEE: Human Services — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — Raymond, Frank, Miller, Minjarez, Rose, Swanson, Wu

0 nays

2 absent — Keough, Klick

WITNESSES: For — Jennifer Allmon, Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops; *(Registered, but did not testify: Amanda Fredriksen, AARP; Lee Spiller, Citizens Commission on Human Rights; Katija Gruene, Green Party of Texas; Eric Kunish, National Alliance on Mental Illness; Will Francis, National Association of Social Workers-Texas Chapter; Jamie Dudensing, Texas Association of Health Plans; Scot Kibbe, Texas Health Care Association; Julie Wheeler, Travis County Commissioners Court; James Thurston, United Ways of Texas; Leticia Caballero; Sacha Jacobson; Danielle King; Sara Metzgar)*

Against — None

On — *(Registered, but did not testify: David Cook, Health and Human Services Commission)*

BACKGROUND: Human Resources Code, sec. 32.024(w) requires the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission to set a personal needs allowance of at least \$60 per month for a resident of a nursing home or other long-term care facility who receives Medicaid.

Some observers have noted that this monthly allowance may be insufficient to meet the needs of long-term care facility residents as the cost of goods and services has risen since the allowance was last adjusted by the Legislature.

DIGEST: HB 1622 would require the executive commissioner of the Health and

Human Services Commission to raise to at least \$75 per month the personal needs allowance for residents of long-term care facilities who receive Medicaid.

If, before implementing any provision of the bill, a state agency determined that a waiver or authorization from a federal agency was necessary, the affected agency would be required to request the waiver or authorization and could delay implementing that provision until the waiver or authorization was granted.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017, and would apply only to a personal needs allowance paid on or after that date.

**NOTES:**

According to the Legislative Budget Board's fiscal note, the bill would have a negative impact to general revenue related funds of \$12.8 million in fiscal 2018-19 and about \$6.5 million per year thereafter.