

INTRODUCED BY SENIOR ASSEMBLY MEMBER WALKER

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AP 19: MEDI-CAL: LONG-TERM CARE: PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE.

EXISTING LAW ESTABLISHES THE MEDI-CAL PROGRAM, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES, UNDER WHICH PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS AND OTHER QUALIFIED LOW-INCOME PERSONS ARE PROVIDED WITH HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

UNDER EXISTING LAW, CERTAIN AGED, BLIND, AND DISABLED MEDI-CAL RECIPIENTS ARE REQUIRED TO PAY A SHARE OF COST AS A CONDITION OF ELIGIBILITY, WITH THE SHARE OF COST DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SPECIFIED REQUIREMENTS. EXISTING LAW GENERALLY REQUIRES A MEDI-CAL RECIPIENT RESIDING IN A NURSING HOME TO PAY TO THE NURSING FACILITY, AS HIS OR HER SHARE OF COST, HIS OR HER MONTHLY INCOME, LESS A PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE OF \$35.

THIS MEASURE WOULD MEMORIALIZE THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD INCREASE THE PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE FROM \$35 TO \$80 PER MONTH AND ANNUALLY ADJUST THE

PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE BY THE SAME PERCENTAGE AS THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX.

VOTE MAJORITY.

AP 19: RELATING TO MEDI-CAL PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE

WHEREAS, THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES (DHCS) ADMINISTERS THE MEDI-CAL PROGRAM TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO QUALIFIED LOW-INCOME PERSONS, INCLUDING AGED, BLIND, OR DISABLED INDIVIDUALS; AND

WHEREAS, EXISTING LAW AUTHORIZES THE DHCS TO ESTABLISH A PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE FOR RESIDENTS IN A SKILLED NURSING FACILITY NOT LESS THAN \$35 PER MONTH FOR PERSONAL AND INCIDENTAL NEEDS AND TO INCREASE THAT PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE AS NECESSARY; AND

WHEREAS, THE PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE IS CRUCIAL TO ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF RESIDENTS IN SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES BY COVERING THE COSTS OF PERSONAL AND INCIDENTAL NEEDS, INCLUDING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, HAIRCUTS, CLOTHES, SHOES, PERSONAL CARE ITEMS, READING MATERIALS, AND POSTAGE; AND

WHEREAS, CALIFORNIA'S PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE WAS LAST SET IN 1984 AT \$35 PER MONTH, BUT RESIDENTS IN SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES HAVE

NOT RECEIVED A COST-OF-LIVING INCREASE SINCE 1984, WHILE THE RATE OF INFLATION OVER THE LAST 32 YEARS IS 128 PERCENT; AND

WHEREAS, AN INCREASE IN THE PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE TO \$80 WILL BE PARTIALLY REIMBURSED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND WILL, THEREFORE, INCREASE FEDERAL SPENDING IN CALIFORNIA. THIS, IN TURN, WILL BENEFIT CALIFORNIA'S ECONOMY; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, BY THE SENIOR ASSEMBLY AND THE SENIOR SENATE, JOINTLY, THAT THE SENIOR LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AT ITS 2016 REGULAR SESSION, A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS VOTING THEREFOR, HEREBY PROPOSES THAT THE MEDI-CAL PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE BE INCREASED FROM \$35 TO \$80 PER MONTH; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THEREAFTER THE MEDI-CAL PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE SHOULD BE ADJUSTED ANNUALLY BY THE SAME PERCENTAGE AS THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE SENIOR LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA RESPECTFULLY MEMORIALIZES THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO ENACT APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ADDRESS THE CONCERNS SET FORTH IN THIS MEASURE; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THIS MEASURE BE TRANSMITTED TO THE
SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY, THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, AND
THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.