

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 210

PRINTER'S NO. 2503

AMOUNT

No Additional Fiscal Impact

FUND

Lottery Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 25, 2011

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Baker

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES, Jan. 25, 2011

Reported as amended, Feb. 9, 2011

First consideration, Feb. 9, 2011

Laid on the table, Feb. 9, 2011

Removed from table, April 12, 2011

Laid on the table, April 12, 2011

Removed from table, Sept. 28, 2011

Second consideration, with amendments, Oct. 4, 2011

Re-committed to APPROPRIATIONS, Oct. 4, 2011

(Remarks see House Journal Page), Oct. 4, 2011

Re-reported as committed, Oct. 5, 2011

Third consideration and final passage, Oct. 5, 2011 (199-0)

(Remarks see House Journal Page), Oct. 5, 2011

In the Senate

Referred to AGING AND YOUTH, Oct. 13, 2011

Reported as committed, Dec. 6, 2011

First consideration, Dec. 6, 2011

Second consideration, Dec. 7, 2011

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, Dec. 7, 2011

Re-reported as committed, Dec. 12, 2011

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

HB 210 changes the name of the Family Caregiver Support Act to the Pennsylvania Caregiver Support Act.

HB 210 allows an increase in the maximum amount available to a qualified caregiver whose household income is under 200% of poverty level from \$200 per month up to \$500 per month for expenses incurred by the caregiver in purchasing services and supplies where caregivers are able to demonstrate need for additional reimbursement or if the Area Agency on Aging's average monthly reimbursement amount does not exceed \$300 for its total caregiver program caseload

HB 210 removes the definition of "relative" and permits reimbursements to non-relative caregivers as well as adult family members. The bill also removes the requirement that a caregiver must live with the care recipient.

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The bill specifies that, after all eligibility criteria have been met, priority in awarding assistance paid for by the State Lottery Fund shall be given to primary caregivers (adult family members and other individuals) who care for a functionally dependent older adult and an adult over 60 with chronic dementia, such as Alzheimer's Disease.

This act is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of this bill will not cost any additional Lottery funds. There is a provision in the bill that services will only be available up to the level of the appropriation. In the past two years, the Department of Aging underspent the Lottery funds appropriated to this program by over \$1 million each year. The proposed increase in reimbursement limits will enable the Department of Aging to fully expend the funding appropriated to this program. According to the department, there is a waiting list of 451 individuals for the federal program who would be served as a result of this legislation.