



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 210

PRINTERS NO. 2503

PRIME SPONSOR: Baker

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2011/12	FY 2012/13
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: Amends the Family Caregiver Support Act (Act 204 of 1990). Effective date is in 60 days.

ANALYSIS: The legislation would change the name of the Act to the Pennsylvania Caregiver Support Act; would allow for exceptions to the current \$200 per month reimbursement amount up to the federal maximum amount of \$500 for approved out-of-pocket expenses (service/ supply purchases) 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; would expand reimbursement to non-relative caregivers as well as adult family members; would no longer require the caregiver to live with the care recipient; would require the department to give priority in awarding assistance via the Lottery Fund to those who care for functionally dependent older adults and adults 60 years or older with chronic dementia; and would establish that the Act does not create an entitlement for services or benefits.

FISCAL IMPACT: The legislation also includes language that limits services under the Act to the extent of the availability and level of appropriations made by the General Assembly therefore adoption of this legislation would have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. In the current fiscal year, \$12.103million in Lottery Fund and \$10million in federal dollars have been appropriated for this program. Currently, the state program only reimburses caregivers who are related and living in the same residence while the federal program reimburses primary caregivers regardless of whether related or residing in the same home. This difference has caused Aging to lapse Lottery Fund dollars while creating a waiting list for the federal program. Adoption of this legislation would allow those on the federal waiting list to be served through the state program. According to the department, it is anticipated that 7,975 unduplicated families will be served in fiscal year 2011-12 and that there is a waiting list of 451 for the federal program who would be served as a result of this legislation. Additionally, the average monthly reimbursement for the Lottery funded program is \$141 per month, for the federal program is \$217 per month and the average lifetime home modification/ assistive device reimbursement (Lottery and federal) is \$700.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: October 4, 2011

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.