

# **SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NO.** House Bill 464

**PRINTER NO.** 1392

**AMOUNT**

See Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

Lottery Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

February 9, 2021

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative Boback

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

House Bill 464 amends the act of December 19, 1990 (P.L. 1234, No. 204), known as the Family Caregiver Support Act to align the Caregiver Support Program with federal standards.

The bill replaces references to "adult with chronic dementia" with "Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder" and changes references to "victims of chronic dementia" to those "living with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder."

House Bill 464 modifies the definition of "care receiver" to be inclusive of all individuals this program is permitted to serve under the federal law as follows:

- A functionally dependent older adult who is 60 years of age or older and cared for by a primary caregiver who is 18 years of age or older;
- An individual with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder who is cared for by a caregiver 18 years of age or older;
- A child who is younger than 18 years of age who is cared for and resides with an older relative caregiver for a child; and
- An individual who is between 18 and 59 years of age, has a non-dementia-related disability and is cared for and resides with an older relative caregiver for an individual with a disability.

House Bill 464 updates the definition of "primary caregiver" and defines "older relative caregiver for a child" and "older relative caregiver for an individual with a disability" to align with the federal Older Americans Act.

The bill removes the statutory maximum reimbursement rates for out-of-pocket expenses (\$200 monthly maximum) and for home modifications and assistive device expenses (\$2,000 per case maximum). The Department of Aging is charged with establishing the reimbursement rates.

The bill requires the Department of Aging, prior to making a change to the maximum reimbursement rates for out-of-pocket expenses or home modifications or assistive devices, to transmit notice to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin and to provide notification to the Senate and House oversight committees.

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## FISCAL NOTE

The bill prohibits a perpetrator in a substantial case under the Older Adults Protective Services Act, the Adult Protective Services Act or Child Protective Services from receiving benefits under this program.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

House Bill 464 will not result in increased costs to the Commonwealth. Section 6 of the bill states that an entitlement is not created and that services shall be made available to the extent of available funding. While the maximum reimbursement rates for out-of-pocket expenses (currently \$200 monthly maximum) and for home modifications and assistive device expenses (currently \$2,000 per case maximum) will be allowed to be changed by the Department of Aging, the change will not impact the appropriation level. However, the change of reimbursement rates may reduce the value of future lapses in this appropriation. Over the past three fiscal years, lapses for the Caregiver Support program were:

- FY 2017-18: \$1.052 million;
- FY 2018-19: \$2.326 million; and
- FY 2019-20: \$3.645 million.