

Summary of Legislation

This bill extends the repeal date for the In-Home Support Services (IHSS) program administered by the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) and funded through the federal Medicaid benefit. The Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) certifies IHSS providers. The bill also modifies the definition of "eligible persons" and removes an obsolete reporting requirement, as recommended in the Department of Regulatory Agencies' (DORA) sunset review.

Background

IHSS is a Medicaid service delivery model that provides a range of in-home services for persons with disabilities who are eligible for certain Medicaid waiver programs. These services include health maintenance, household assistance, and personal care services that allow clients to remain in their homes rather than in institutional nursing care and other types of facilities. As of FY 2017-18, there are 130 certified IHSS provider agencies.

Assumptions

The fiscal note assumes that the bill's modification to the definition of "eligible person" does not have an immediate fiscal impact on the IHSS program as additional federal waivers would have to be attained.

Continuing Program Impacts

Based on the department's FY 2019-20 budget request, HCPF is expected to have continuing expenditures of \$199.2 million and 1.0 FTE, which includes \$99.6 million from the General Fund and \$98.6 million in federal funds, to provide benefits through the IHSS program beginning in FY 2020-21. Because the bill continues a program without making fiscally substantial changes, there are no new fiscal impacts. If the bill is not passed, continuing program impacts through the IHSS service model would end. However, because Medicaid is a federal entitlement for eligible clients, equivalent costs to provide those clients services through other Medicaid service models would continue.

Costs in the CDPHE to certify IHSS providers, which are paid using reappropriated Medicaid funds, will also continue whether or not the bill passes, as home care agencies are expected to maintain their certification to be reimbursed through other Medicaid service models.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 2, 2019, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 3, 2019, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties
Law

Health Care Policy and Financing
Public Health and Environment

Information Technology