

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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### Overview

This bill increases the income limit for the prescription drug program for Medicare enrollees of all ages to 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, moves up by one year the date on which Medicare enrollees under age 65 become eligible, and provides an alternative burial exclusion for prescription drug program enrollees and qualified Medicare beneficiaries.

### Section

- 1 **Eligibility.** Amends § 256.955, subd. 2a. Increases the income limit for the prescription drug program for Medicare enrollees age 65 and over from the current 120 percent to 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. Inserts the current asset limit into statute.
- 2 **Eligibility.** Amends § 256.055, subd. 2b. Increases the income limit for the prescription drug program for Medicare enrollees under age 65 from 100 percent to 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. Moves up by one year (from July 1, 2002 to July 1, 2001) the date on which Medicare enrollees under age 65 become eligible for the program. Inserts the current asset limit into statute.
- 3 **Burial exclusion.** Amends § 256.955, by adding subd. 2c. Effective upon receipt of federal waivers or July 1, 2002, whichever is later, allows prescription drug program enrollees and qualified Medicare beneficiaries to exclude up to \$8,000 in assets for burial expenses, as an alternative to the current MA burial exclusion.