

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill requires persons qualifying for Medical Assistance (MA) on the basis of a recurring monthly spenddown to pay the monthly spenddown in advance to the state agency; this is an option under current law. The bill also increases the MA spenddown standard for persons who are elderly, blind, or disabled to 100 percent of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG).

MA allows persons whose income is above the program income limit to qualify for MA, by incurring medical expenses sufficient to reduce excess income to the relevant spenddown standard. The spenddown standard in current law is 133 percent of FPG for families and children and 75 percent of FPG for persons who are elderly, blind, or disabled. There is no spenddown option for adults without children. Persons can elect to have medical expenses deducted at the start of a one-month or six-month budget period.

Section

- 1 Excess income.** Amends § 256B.056, subd. 5. Requires persons on a recurring MA one-month spenddown to pay the monthly spenddown to the state agency in advance of the month of eligibility. Payment must be made on or before the 20th of the month in order to be eligible for the following month. Under current law, paying the monthly spenddown in advance is a recipient option. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2013, (technical amendment needed to change year to 2014) or upon federal approval.
- 2 Excess income standard.** Amends § 256B.056, subd. 5c. Increases the MA spenddown standard for persons who are elderly, blind, or disabled, from 75 percent to 100 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

Section

- 3** **Federal waivers.** Requires the commissioner to seek any federal waivers and approvals necessary to make the changes to the MA spenddown required under section 256B.056, subdivision 5.