

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: MA Income Standard for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

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Overview

This bill modifies MA income eligibility and the excess income standard for certain persons and requires the commissioner to make recommendations on raising the asset limits for seniors and persons with disabilities and to request authority to allow certain waiver participants to choose between a disregard of the nonassisted spouse's assets or certain federal spousal impoverishment provisions.

Section

- 1** **Income.** Amends § 256B.056, subd. 4. Modifies MA income eligibility for persons who are aged, blind, and disabled and disabled children by increasing the maximum income from 100 percent to 133 percent of the federal poverty guidelines and instructs the commissioner to use the modified adjusted gross income methodology to determine income eligibility. Makes this section effective January 1, 2014.
- 2** **Excess income standard.** Amends § 256B.056, subd. 5c. Effective January 1, 2014, modifies the excess income standard for persons who are aged, blind, and disabled by increasing the income standard from 75 percent to 133 percent of the federal poverty guidelines using the modified adjusted gross income methodology.
- 3** **Recommendations on raising the asset limits for seniors and persons with disabilities.** Requires the commissioner to develop recommendations and a request for a federal waiver to increase the asset limit for individuals eligible for MA due to disability or age who are not residing in a nursing facility or an institution whose costs for room and board are covered by MA or state funds. Requires recommendations to be provided to the legislature by February 1, 2014.

Section

- 4** **Direction to commissioner.** Requires the commissioner of human services to request authority from CMS to allow persons under age 65 participating in the HCBS waivers to choose between a disregard of the nonassisted spouse's income and assets or the spousal impoverishment provisions under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.