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Overview

This bill modifies the essential community supports program.

The essential community supports (ECS) program provides targeted services to persons age 65 and older who need essential community support, but whose needs do not meet the nursing home level of care.

Services must be available to a person who:

- is age 65 or older;
- is not eligible for Medical Assistance (MA);
- has received a community assessment and does not require the level of care provided in a nursing facility;
- meets the financial eligibility criteria for the alternative care program;
- has a community support plan; and
- has an assessed need for at least one of the support services offered under ECS in order to maintain his or her community residence.

Transitional ECS may be available to a person who:

- is age 21 or older;

Section

- lives in his or her own home or apartment;
- meets the financial eligibility criteria for AC;
- was receiving nursing facility services or home and community-based long-term services and supports on January 1, 2015;
- lost eligibility for continuing Medical Assistance payment of nursing facility services or home and community-based long-term services and supports at his or her 2015 annual assessment due to the changes in the nursing home level of care standard;
- is not eligible for personal care attendant services; and
- has an assessed need for at least one of the support services offered under ECS in order to maintain his or her community residence.

Services available through ECS include the following:

- adult day services
- caregiver support
- homemaker support
- chore services
- a personal emergency response device or system
- home-delivered meals
- community living assistance
- service coordination/case management (not to exceed \$600 per person in a 12-month authorization period)

Section

- 1** **Essential community supports.** Amends § 256B.0922, subd. 1. Increases the monthly limit on essential community supports and adds respite care and companion services.