

Subject Modifying essential community supports

Authors Virnig and others

Analyst Danyell A. Punelli

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Overview

This bill modifies essential community supports eligibility. 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.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Essential community supports. Amends § 256B.0922, subd. 1. Expands eligibility for ECS to people who are 60 years of age or older or who have dementia (current eligibility is limited to people age 65 years and older). Expands services to include respite care.
2	Financial eligibility criteria. Amends § 256B.0922, by adding subd. 3. Modifies financial eligibility criteria for ECS by allowing income up to 400 percent of the federal poverty guidelines for the household size (under current law, a person must meet the financial eligibility requirements of the alternative care program to be eligible for ECS). Requires the commissioner to use the federal modified adjusted gross income methodology when determining financial eligibility. Applies no asset limit to persons eligible for ECS.
3	Appropriation; caregiver respite services grants. Appropriates \$2,000,000 in each fiscal year of the 2026-2027 biennium from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for caregiver respite services grants.