

**Senate File 255 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 255  
BY WESTRICH

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act relating to the personal needs allowance under the medical
- 2 assistance program.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 249A.30A, Code 2025, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 **249A.30A Medical assistance — personal needs allowance.**

4 1. The personal needs allowance under the medical assistance  
5 program, which may be retained by a person who is a resident of a  
6 nursing facility, an intermediate care facility for persons with  
7 an intellectual disability, or an intermediate care facility for  
8 persons with mental illness, as defined in section 135C.1, or a  
9 person who is a resident of a psychiatric medical institution for  
10 children as defined in section 135H.1, shall be ~~fifty~~ sixty-five  
11 dollars per month.

12 2. A resident who has income of less than ~~fifty~~ sixty-five  
13 dollars per month shall receive a supplement from the state in  
14 the amount necessary to receive a personal needs allowance of  
15 ~~fifty~~ sixty-five dollars per month. The general assembly shall  
16 annually appropriate a sufficient amount from the general fund of  
17 the state to the department of health and human services for this  
18 purpose.

19 3. Beginning July 1, 2026, the department shall annually  
20 increase the personal needs allowance by a percentage equal to  
21 the percentage increase in the consumer price index for all urban  
22 consumers for the most recent twelve-month period published in  
23 the federal register by the United States department of labor,  
24 bureau of labor statistics.

25 EXPLANATION

26 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
27 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

28 This bill relates to the personal needs allowance under the  
29 medical assistance program.

30 The personal needs allowance covers a person's personal  
31 expenses not covered by the medical assistance program. Current  
32 law provides that a person who is a resident of a nursing  
33 facility, an intermediate care facility for persons with an  
34 intellectual disability or mental illness, or a psychiatric  
35 medical institution for children may retain a personal needs

1 allowance of \$50 per month. A resident who has an income of less  
2 than \$50 dollars per month shall receive a supplement from the  
3 state to receive a personal needs allowance of \$50 per month.  
4 The bill increases the personal needs allowance to \$65 per month  
5 and a resident with an income of less than \$65 per month shall  
6 receive a supplement from the state.

7 The bill provides that beginning July 1, 2026, the department  
8 shall annually increase the personal needs allowance by a  
9 percentage equal to the percentage increase in the consumer price  
10 index for all urban consumers for the most recent 12-month period  
11 published in the federal register by the United States department  
12 of labor, bureau of labor statistics.

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