

Senate File 534 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 534
BY CELSI

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to options for long-term care, and making
- 2 appropriations.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. MEDICAID — REIMBURSEMENT OF TRANSPORTATION COSTS
2 — HOME HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS. The department of health and
3 human services shall establish a rate structure for reimbursement
4 of the transportation costs of home health care providers by
5 incorporating an increased reimbursement amount into the existing
6 home health care provider reimbursement rate that reflects the
7 total time expended by a home health care provider, including
8 the provider's travel time, in the per visit reimbursement.
9 The department shall submit a report on the reimbursement
10 rate structure and the projected cost of application of the
11 reimbursement rate structure to the governor and the general
12 assembly by December 1, 2025.

13 Sec. 2. OPTIONS FOR LONG-TERM LIVING — STUDY — REPORT.

14 1. Pursuant to section 231.58, and considering the intent of
15 the general assembly for the long-term living system in Iowa
16 pursuant to section 231F.1, including maximizing independence,
17 choice, and dignity for consumers, the director of health and
18 human services shall convene a study group to facilitate the
19 coordination of long-term living system policy, service delivery,
20 and long-range planning by performing a focused review of the
21 alternatives for the long-term living system in the state.

22 2. The study group shall include all of the following
23 members:

24 a. The director of health and human services.

25 b. The director of the division of aging and disability
26 services of the department of health and human services.

27 c. The director of the department of inspections, appeals,
28 and licensing.

29 d. The state director of AARP Iowa, or the state director's
30 designee.

31 e. The chief executive officer of each area agency on aging,
32 or the chief executive officer's designee.

33 f. The chairperson of the older Iowans legislature.

34 g. The executive director of the Iowa caregivers association,
35 or the executive director's designee.

1 h. The executive director of the Alzheimer's association,
2 Iowa chapter, or the executive director's designee.

3 i. The executive director of disability rights Iowa, or the
4 executive director's designee.

5 j. The director of the Barbara and Richard Csomay center
6 for gerontological excellence, at the state university of Iowa
7 college of nursing, or the director's designee.

8 k. The director of the gerontology program at Iowa state
9 university of science and technology, or the director's designee.

10 l. The director of the university of northern Iowa school of
11 applied human sciences, or the director's designee.

12 m. The president and vice president of the Hale group.

13 3. The review shall include a survey of existing long-term
14 living approaches utilized in other states and innovative
15 approaches such as the greenhouse system, adult family homes,
16 and elder group homes, with the goal of providing Iowans with
17 access to an extensive range of high-quality, affordable, and
18 cost-effective long-term living options. The review shall also
19 consider how the state may assist nursing facilities which are
20 not at full occupancy by incorporating other sectors including
21 but not limited to child care, adult day care, and home health
22 services.

23 4. The study group shall submit a report of its findings and
24 recommendations including a summary of existing and innovative
25 approaches, how other states have successfully implemented
26 existing approaches, and how the state of Iowa can encourage
27 development of the identified existing and innovative approaches
28 in this state, to the governor and the general assembly by
29 December 15, 2025.

30 Sec. 3. ADULT DAY CARE PROVIDERS — MEDICAID
31 REIMBURSEMENT. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025,
32 reimbursement rates under the Medicaid program for adult day
33 care providers who provide services to Medicaid home and
34 community-based services waiver recipients shall be increased by
35 five percent over the reimbursement rates in effect on June 30,

1 2025.

2 Sec. 4. IOWA RETURN TO COMMUNITY PROGRAM — APPROPRIATION.

3 There is appropriated from the general fund of the state to the
4 department of health and human services for the fiscal year
5 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, the following
6 amount, or so much thereof as is necessary, to be used in
7 collaboration with affected stakeholders to continue to expand
8 the Iowa return to community program to assist
9 non-Medicaid-eligible consumers who indicate a preference to
10 return to the community and are deemed appropriate for discharge,
11 to return to their community following a nursing facility or
12 hospital stay: \$ 2,000,000

13 The department of health and human services shall submit to
14 the governor and the general assembly by December 15, 2025, an
15 estimate of the cost to fully fund an expansion of the Iowa
16 return to community program to provide access to all interested
17 consumers.

18 Sec. 5. STATEWIDE DEMENTIA CARE COORDINATOR — DEMENTIA

19 SERVICE SPECIALISTS — APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated from
20 the general fund of the state to the department of health and
21 human services for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and
22 ending June 30, 2026, the following amount or so much thereof as
23 is necessary, for the department of health and human services to
24 employ a statewide dementia care coordinator within the
25 department to provide statewide coordination of dementia-friendly
26 initiatives including efforts pursuant to section 231.62; to
27 coordinate dementia service specialists in each area agency on
28 aging; to provide grants to each area agency on aging to employ a
29 dementia service specialist to increase access and connections to
30 local supports and services for persons living with dementia,
31 their families, and caregivers; to evaluate the availability of
32 respite care for family caregivers of persons with dementia and
33 to provide recommendations to the department and the general
34 assembly on how to meet the demand; and to increase awareness
35 about dementia within the network of area agency on aging

1 providers as well as in communities, businesses, health care
2 facilities, and assisted living programs throughout the state: .
3 \$ 750,000

4 EXPLANATION

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

7 This bill relates to options for long-term living and funding
8 of long-term care services.

9 The bill requires the department of health and human services
10 (HHS) to establish a rate structure for reimbursement of
11 the transportation costs of home health care providers by
12 incorporating an increased reimbursement amount for travel time
13 into the per visit reimbursement. The department shall submit
14 a report of the rate structure and the projected cost of
15 application of the reimbursement rate structure to the governor
16 and the general assembly by December 1, 2025.

17 The bill requires that pursuant to Code section 231.58
18 (long-term living coordination) and considering the intent of
19 the general assembly for the long-term living system in Iowa
20 pursuant to Code section 231F.1 (intent for Iowa's long-term
21 living system), including maximizing independence, choice, and
22 dignity for consumers, the director of HHS shall convene a study
23 group that includes members specified in the bill to perform a
24 focused review of the alternatives for long-term living options
25 in the state. The review shall include a survey of existing
26 approaches utilized in other states and innovative approaches to
27 provide Iowans with access to an extensive range of high-quality,
28 affordable, and cost-effective long-term living options. The
29 review shall also consider how the state may assist nursing
30 facilities not at full occupancy by incorporating other sectors.
31 The study group shall submit a report of its findings and
32 recommendations to the governor and the general assembly by
33 December 15, 2025.

34 The bill provides that for FY 2025-2026, Medicaid
35 reimbursement rates for adult day care providers who provide

1 services to Medicaid home and community-based services waiver
2 recipients shall be increased by 5 percent over the rates in
3 effect on June 30, 2025.

4 The bill makes an appropriation to HHS for FY 2025-2026 from
5 the general fund of the state to be used in collaboration with
6 affected stakeholders to continue to expand the Iowa return to
7 community program. The bill requires HHS to submit to the
8 governor and the general assembly by December 15, 2025, an
9 estimate of the cost to fund an expansion of the Iowa return to
10 community program to provide access to all interested consumers.

11 The bill makes an appropriation to HHS for FY 2025-2026 from
12 the general fund of the state to be used by HHS to employ
13 a statewide dementia care coordinator within HHS to provide
14 coordination services related to statewide dementia care as
15 described in the bill.

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