House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 110

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 6911

House of Representatives, March 18, 2025

The Committee on Aging reported through REP. GARIBAY of the 60th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING ASSET LIMITS FOR HUSKY C BENEFICIARIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Social Services shall increase the asset limit for the HUSKY C health program, as defined in section 17b-290 of the general statutes, for an unmarried person and married persons by, at a minimum, an amount equal to the percentage increase, if any, in the most recent calendar year average in the consumer price index for urban consumers over the average for the previous calendar year.

(b) Not later than July 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the commissioner shall file a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations, human services and aging on (1) the number of persons eligible for the HUSKY C health program for the prior fiscal year, and

(2) any increased costs incurred by the state that are attributable to changes in the asset limits.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*from passage*	New section

AGE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 $	FY 27 $
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill is anticipated to result in a cost to the Department of Social Services (DSS) associated with increasing the HUSKY C asset limit based on the percentage increase, if any, in the most recent calendar year average in the consumer price index for urban consumers over the average for the previous calendar year.

The current asset limit for HUSKY C participants is generally $1,600 for an individual and $2,400 for a married couple. Based on the percent change in the average CPI-U between 2023 and 2024, the asset limit is estimated to increase to $1,647 for an individual and $2,471 for a couple. The number of clients that would become eligible due to the increased asset limit is currently unknown. For context, the program currently supports approximately 84,700 individuals at an average state cost of approximately $1,680 per member per month.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6911

AN ACT CONCERNING ASSET LIMITS FOR HUSKY C BENEFICIARIES.

SUMMARY

This bill expands eligibility for Connecticut's Medicaid program known as HUSKY C, which is available to qualifying residents who are age 65 or older or who are ages 18 to 64 and are disabled or blind. It does so by increasing how much program applicants can have in assets to participate.

The bill specifically requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner, starting by July 1, 2025, to annually increase the program's asset limits by amounts at least equal to the percentage increase, if any, in the most recent calendar year's average consumer price index for urban consumers over the average for the previous year. Under current law, the HUSKY C asset limits are generally $1,600 for an unmarried individual and $2,400 for a married couple.

Relatedly, the bill also requires the DSS commissioner, starting by July 1, 2026, to annually submit a report on (1) the number of people eligible for HUSKY C for the prior fiscal year and (2) any additional costs the state incurred because of changes to the asset limits. She must submit these reports to the Aging, Appropriations, and Human Services committees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers

The consumer price index for urban consumers is the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics' measure of the average change over time in

the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 12 Nay 1 (03/04/2025)