

Subject MA Spenddown Standard

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Date March 14, 2019

Overview

This bill increase the MA spenddown standard for persons who are age 65 or older, blind, or have disabilities to 100 percent of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG), over a five-year period ending January 1, 2024.

Persons who would otherwise qualify for Medical Assistance, except for excess income, can qualify for the program through a spenddown. Under a spenddown, an individual reduces his or her income by incurring medical bills in amounts that equal or exceed the amount by which his or her income exceeds the relevant spenddown standard.

The MA income limit for persons who are age 65 or older, blind, or have disabilities is 100 percent of FPG (\$12,144 a year for one person). If an individual's income exceeds this amount, the individual would need to spenddown to the MA spenddown standard for that eligibility group of 80 percent of FPG (scheduled under current law to increase to 81 percent of FPG on June 1, 2019).

Summary

Section	Description
1	<p>Excess income standard.</p> <p>Amends § 256B.056, subd. 5c. Increases the excess income (spenddown) standard for persons who are age 65 and older, blind, or have disabilities, from 80 percent of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG), which under current law is to increase to 81 percent of FPG effective June 1, 2019, to the following percentages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 84 percent of FPG effective January 1, 2020;▪ 88 percent of FPG effective January 1, 2021;▪ 92 percent of FPG effective January 1, 2022;▪ 96 percent of FPG effective January 1, 2023; and▪ 100 percent of FPG effective January 1, 2024.



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