

ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 5173

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 27, 2023

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5173 (1R).

This bill requires that the hourly reimbursement rate for home health aide services, as well as personal care services and homemaker services, provided through the Statewide Respite Care Program and the Jersey Assistance for Community Caregiving (JACC) Program, in which the services are provided on a weekday, are no less than the Medicaid fee-for-service reimbursement rate for personal care services, which is set at \$24.52 in FY 2023. When the same services provided through these programs are provided on a weekend or on a State or federal holiday, the reimbursement rate is required to be no less than the amount of the Medicaid fee-for-service reimbursement rate for personal care services plus \$1, or \$25.52 in FY 2023.

In addition, the bill codifies into statute the current monetary cap each program reimburses an eligible participant in a calendar year. For the Statewide Respite Care Program, the cap is currently set at \$6559.63 per calendar year. For the JACC Program, the cap is currently set at \$11,158.56 per calendar year. This cap does not include any additional costs associated with a monthly case management fee. As amended, the bill provides that the program caps can be increased to a higher amount approved by the Commissioner of Human Services through regulation.

The bill also requires that an amount sufficient to carry out these provisions be appropriated each fiscal year from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services.

The Statewide Respite Care Program provides relief and support to uncompensated caregivers from the demands of the daily care of functionally impaired persons. The JACC Program provides services and supports to certain eligible senior citizens to supplement and strengthen the capacity of caregivers. Currently, home health aide services, personal care services, and homemaker services provided under the Statewide Respite Care Program are reimbursed at \$17 per hour for services provided on a weekday and \$18 per hour for services provided on a weekend or a State or federal holiday. The same services provided under the JACC Program are reimbursed at \$15.50

per hour for services provided on a weekday and \$17 per hour for services provided on a weekend or a State or federal holiday.

As released from committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 2362 (1R).

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the bill will increase annual State expenditures by \$2.2 million in setting the hourly reimbursement rates for home health aide, personal care, and homemaker services provided through the Statewide Respite Care Program and the Jersey Assistance for Community Caregiving program at a rate equal to the Medicaid fee-for-service rate for personal care services. The OLS projects that the bill will generate up to \$25,000 in additional annual copayments from participants in the Statewide Respite Care Program and the Jersey Assistance for Community Caregiving program.