

2025 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1485

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1485
1/29/2025

Relating to the personal needs allowance amount for eligible beneficiaries.

2:58 p.m. Chairman M. Ruby opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman M. Ruby, Vice-Chairman Frelich, Representatives Anderson, Beltz, Bolinske, Davis, Dobervich, Fegley, Hendrix, Holle, Kiefert, Rios, Rohr

Discussion Topics:

- Increased benefits for long-term care.
- Dignity for residents

2:59 p.m. Representative McLeod, District 45, introduced the bill.

3:05 p.m. Retha Mattern testified in favor and submitted testimony, #32373.

3:08 p.m. Nikki Wegner, ND Long Term Care Association, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #32501.

3:13 p.m. Nikki Wegner testified on behalf of Sandy Fischer, Resident of Baptist Health & Rehab, submitted testimony in favor, #32271.

3:17 p.m. Maurice Hardy, Director of the Dakota Central Human Service Zone, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #32365.

Additional testimony:

Pamela Mack, Director of Program Services of the ND Protection & Advocacy Project, submitted testimony in favor, #32581.

Chairman M. Ruby closed the hearing.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk

Testimony on Personal Needs allowance amount for eligible individuals
House Human Services Committee
January 29, 2025
House Bill 1485

Chair ---- and the House Services Committee, my name is Sandy Fischer. Thank you for the opportunity to provide a written testimony on House Bill 1485, A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 50-24.5-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the personal needs allowance amount for eligible beneficiaries – specifically 6. Provide a monthly personal needs allowance; to be reviewed and adjusted annually based on inflation, in an amount no less than one hundred ten dollars.

I am a resident at Baptist Health & Rehab, a long-term care center located in Bismarck, ND. I have lived there since May 2012. Prior to an accident that placed my needs for skilled living services, I was the Director of Nursing at Baptist for nine years. I understand the needs of the residents and the needs for myself.

Currently, Medicaid recipients, such as I am, only get \$100 per month to spend on ourselves. This can be used for clothes, or other things that we want or need, such as cable TV, or if we want any certain snacks that the facility does not provide.

Personally, I like a special toothpaste as well as flossers that Baptist does not provide to the residents. At this time, I cannot purchase this item but with the extra \$10 per month, I could do that.

I also like to buy cards that I send to my family to stay in touch with during special days and holidays. I purchase the cards and stamps from the business office at Baptist.

While I get the local TV stations in my room, I pay for cable, as I depend on national media outlets to stay informed with the bigger picture of what is going on across our state and nation.

My family has to pitch in from time to time to buy things for myself that I cannot afford to purchase. While a move from \$100 to at least \$110 does not seem like a lot, to those of us that rely on the this process, an extra \$10 (minimally, annually with regards to inflation) is truly the difference in allowing us a bit of freedom to be self-sufficient and a bit of dignity to provide a bit more for ourselves.

Thank you for your time and consideration in supporting an adjustment in the personal needs allowance.



Sandy Fischer
Resident
Baptist Health & Rehab/3400 Nebraska Drive/Bismarck, ND 58504/
(701) 223-3040

Testimony Prepared for the
House Human Services Committee

January 29, 2025

Maurice Hardy; LBSW, MRC, Dakota Central Human Service Zone

RE: HB 1485 Personal Needs Allowance for Eligible Beneficiaries.

Chairman Ruby, and members of the House Human Services Committee. I am Maurice Hardy, Director of Dakota Central Human Service Zone, which includes the counties of McLean, Mercer, Oliver, and Sheridan. In addition, I am a member of the North Dakota Human Service Zone Director Association. I am here to provide testimony in support of the bill for Personal Needs Allowance for Eligible Beneficiaries.

Prior to my position as director of Dakota Central I was a Home and Community based case manager, 6 years in Golden Valley/Billings County, 2 years with Dakota Central Social Service District until 2020 when it became a zone and Case Managers became North Dakota State employees, which I was for almost another 3 years.

In that time, I would meet with our aged population and complete assessments and determine eligibility for the program and find out what assistance they needed to remain in their own homes. To my clients, staying in their own place and independent was their primary goal and also mine.

In that time, I met your average North Dakotan, determined, independent, and not wanting to be a burden. Little things met so much to them, such being able to shop for items they wanted or needed. A lot of the times it was for a birthday card for a family member, grandchild or great grandchild. Many times, I suspect they put a dollar or two in there from their meager income.

Many of these wonderful people had some personal items, like certain lotion, soap, shampoo, etc.... that not only did they like, but seemed to be best for their skin, hair, and oral mouth care. Some have a favorite snack or treat that is no longer affordable. Basic care facilities cannot be expected to provide those specific items that a person prefers or wants for their personal care and residents use what is provided.

These wonderful people I worked with never really wanted to go to a basic care facility until they knew that was the safest place for them. For many to give up that independence of living in their own home was a very hard decision for them and their families and had some effect on their self-esteem.

They find out that they are allowed \$100 @ month for those personal items that brought them comfort. Being able to purchase clothing items they like, to a lotion, shampoo, toothpaste, a special treat, that has become a part of their life, becomes a costly item. They either do without or need to ask for help from a family member or friend, which is

hard. Imagine asking one of your children for \$10.00 so you can buy Birthday or Christmas cards, new socks, or underwear.

With inflation that has occurred in the last few years, \$100.00 does not go as far as it did four or five years ago. \$110.00 is a little better and will allow small purchases that give a little comfort to those that lead a proud independent life.

We believe this small increase in personal needs allowance for eligible beneficiaries will let them know they are not forgotten and give a little more comfort. We ask for a DO PASS on HB 1485 and thank you for your time. I will stand for any questions.

Testimony in favor of HB 1485 regarding personal needs allowance for Medicaid recipients

Chair and members of the House Human Services Committee, thank you for your consideration of HB 1485. My name is Retha Mattern, and I am here to share my family's personal experience in relation to long term care and Medicaid, and why I support the increase in personal needs allowance with an inflationary adjustment proposal in this bill.

Less than six months ago, my mother and father-in-law lived comfortably and independently in their home in Minot. They purchased this home following the devastating flood in 2011, when their home of nearly four decades was destroyed.

They had done everything right in their lives. They both worked, saved money, had retirement income, and my father-in-law also received a small monthly disability payment from his time in the North Dakota National Guard. He has a life insurance policy, and they had also taken out a long term care insurance policy. Together they raised one child, my husband Mark, and they doted on their grandchildren, our daughter Clara and son Finn. They were not wealthy, but lived comfortably within their means.

Everything changed after my father-in-law Dale suffered a heart attack in September. He survived but began to suffer a series of complications that would eventually result in three more hospital admissions and six surgeries before Christmas. Days before his first surgery, he found his wife of 57 years, Kay, unresponsive in bed. She was life flighted to Sanford Hospital in Bismarck where she ultimately passed after spending 33 days receiving incredible care from the doctors, nurses, therapists, and others there.

Dale was by her side holding her hand when she passed, along with Mark and I. His own medical condition, coupled with increasing dementia and inability to perform daily activities to care for himself, resulted in him requiring long-term skilled nursing care. He is now residing in Missouri Slope, at the Washington campus, where we visit him frequently.

His initial admission was covered by Medicare, but that just ended a few days ago. Now, we are having to spend all his assets to pay for his care. At upwards of \$530 a day, more than 3x the amount covered by his long-term care insurance policy, his life savings and all of their other assets will be depleted in just a few months, at which point we will need to apply for coverage under Medicaid.

As we began researching the requirements for Medicaid, we learned that he would only be able to retain \$100 a month of his own income stream to pay for any incidentals or extras he may need. While all his immediate needs like medication and food are covered, things like replacing a worn-out pair of sweatpants or buying a new pair of shoes are not. With frequent washing in industrial facilities, clothing can wear out quickly. Instead, any of these extras, including things like a subscription to the newspaper or buying a new blanket, that would exceed \$100 a month total would likely fall to a family member to pay for. There is

also a total asset limit, meaning someone can't necessarily just do without for one month and carry it over to the next.

There is no dignity for an older adult, a veteran, and a retired worker in having to rely on their child for any extra comforts. \$100 a month does not go very far. And, as inflation increases yearly, it will cover even less in the years ahead. By including an inflationary factor with the small increase in this bill, you are working to ensure that our elderly can retain a small amount of dignity at a time they are already so reliant on so many others for their daily needs.

Thank you for your consideration, and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Retha Mattern

Testimony in Support of Increasing the Personal Needs Allowance
House Human Services Committee
January 29, 2025
Bill 1485

Chairman Ruby and members of the House Human Services Committee, my name is Nikki Wegner, President of the North Dakota Long Term Care Association. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I represent 182 nursing facilities, basic care facilities, and assisted living facilities. I am here to advocate for an increase in the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for residents in long term care settings, along with the implementation of an annual cost-of-living adjustment.

Background

The Personal Needs Allowance is a portion of a resident's income that is exempt from Medicaid calculations, allowing individuals to retain funds for personal expenses such as clothing, toiletries, and other personal items. Historically, the PNA in North Dakota remained stagnant for many years, failing to keep pace with inflation and the rising cost of living. In recognition of this issue, the 2023 Legislative Assembly approved an increase of \$35, raising the PNA to \$100 per month, effective July 1, 2023.

Current Situation

While the recent increase was a positive step, the current PNA still falls short of meeting the personal needs of our residents. The cost of essential items continues to rise, and \$100 per month is insufficient for residents to cover necessary expenses that enhance their quality of life. Furthermore, without a mechanism to adjust the PNA annually, residents will continue to experience a decline in their purchasing power over time.

We respectfully request the following:

1. **Increase the Personal Needs Allowance:** We support raising the PNA to \$110 per month. This adjustment would provide residents with a more adequate allowance to meet their personal needs.
2. **Implement an Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment:** To prevent the PNA from becoming outdated due to inflation, we recommend instituting an automatic

annual adjustment tied to the Consumer Price Index. This measure would ensure that the PNA remains responsive to economic changes, maintaining its real value over time.

Rationale

- **Enhancing Quality of Life:** Residents use their PNA for personal items and activities that are not covered by Medicaid, such as clothing, personal hygiene products, haircuts from their preferred stylist, and small gifts for family members. Also, more and more would like to have their smartphone. An increase would enable them to maintain dignity and a sense of normalcy in their daily lives.
- **Economic Considerations:** The cost of living has risen significantly, and the current PNA does not reflect these changes. Implementing an annual cost-of-living adjustment would ensure that residents' allowances keep pace with inflation, preventing future disparities.
- **Comparative Analysis:** Other states have recognized the importance of a sufficient PNA and have implemented higher allowances and annual adjustments. For example, Colorado provides a PNA of \$105.56, and Arizona adjusts its PNA annually based on 15% of the Federal Benefit Rate.

Personal Needs Allowance Facts

Conclusion

Increasing the Personal Needs Allowance to \$110 per month and implementing an annual cost-of-living adjustment are necessary steps to support the dignity and well-being of residents in long term care facilities. These changes would demonstrate our state's commitment to caring for its most vulnerable citizens, ensuring they have the means to meet their personal needs and maintain a satisfactory quality of life.

We urge the committee for a Do Pass on this important legislation. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I am available to answer any questions you may have.

Nikki Wegner MS, OTR/L, President
North Dakota Long Term Care Association
1900 North 11th Street
Bismarck, ND 58501
(701) 222-0660
nikki@ndltca.org



Protection & Advocacy Project

400 E. Broadway, Suite 409

Bismarck, ND 58501

701-328-2950

1-800-472-2670

TTY: 711

www.ndpanda.org



House Human Services Committee

House Bill 1485 - January 29, 2025

Testimony of Pamela Mack, P&A Director of Program Services

Greetings Chairman Ruby and members of the House Human Services Committee. My name is Pamela Mack and I am a Program Director at the North Dakota Protection and Advocacy Project (P&A). P&A is an independent state agency established in 1977 to assert and advance the human, civil, and legal rights of people with disabilities. The agency's programs and services seek to make positive changes for people with disabilities where we live, learn, work, and play.

I am here today in support of House Bill 1485 which would increase the personal needs allowance for individuals with disabilities who live in institutions and facilities through an annual inflationary increase. Historically people with disabilities have been very limited to the amount of personal spending money that they can keep from their social security when they reside in a facility. The efforts that the legislature has taken to supplement this are a significant benefit to residents.

I would like to offer a consideration for the Committee and suggest adding language regarding how the inflationary increase will occur on an annual basis. One consideration would be to utilize the [consumer price index inflation calculator](#) so that a consistent and standardized method of calculation is used from year to year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Pamela Mack
Director of Program Services
pmack@nd.gov

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1485
2/3/2025

Relating to the personal needs allowance amount for eligible beneficiaries.

4:13 p.m. Chairman M. Ruby opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman M. Ruby, Vice-Chairman Frelich, Representatives K. Anderson, Beltz, Bolinske, Dobervich, Fegley, Hendrix, Kiefert, Rios, Rohr

Members Absent: Representatives Davis, Holle

Discussion Topics:

- Possible amendment

4:14 Chairman M. Ruby-States he is still waiting on some information.

4:15 p.m. Chairman M. Ruby closed the meeting.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk by Risa Berube

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1485
2/5/2025

Relating to the personal needs allowance amount for eligible beneficiaries.

Chairman M. Ruby opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman M. Ruby, Vice-Chairman Frelich, Representatives K. Anderson, Beltz, Bolinske, Dobervich, Fegley, Hendrix, Kiefert, Rios, Rohr

Members Absent: Representatives Davis, Holle

Discussion Topics:

- Committee work
- Proposed amendments relating to Medicaid eligibility

4:40 p.m. Chairman Ruby opened the meeting.

4:42 p.m. Vice-Chairman Frelich introduced amendments relating to Medicaid eligibility.

4:42 p.m. Representative K. Anderson moved to amend the bill relating to adding a monthly needs allowance.

4:42 p.m. Representative Dobervich seconded the motion.

4:42 p.m. Voice Vote passed.

4:43 p.m. Vice-Chairman Frelich moved a Do Pass as amended and rerefer to appropriations.

4:43 p.m. Representative K. Anderson seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Matthew Ruby	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Karen Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Macy Bolinske	Y
Representative Jayme Davis	AB
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	Y
Representative Cleyton Fegley	Y
Representative Jared Hendrix	Y
Representative Dawson Holle	AB
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative Nico Rios	Y

Representative Karen Rohr	Y
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4:44 p.m. Motion passed 11-0-2.

Representative Beltz will carry the bill.

4:45 p.m. Chairman Ruby closed the meeting.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1485

Introduced by

Representatives McLeod, Rios, Satrom, Schauer, Swiontek, Weisz, Karls, Wagner

Senators Lee, Dever, Hogan, Cleary

1 A BILL ~~for an Act to amend and reenact section 50-24.5-02 of the North Dakota Century Code,~~
2 ~~relating to the personal needs allowance amount for eligible beneficiaries.~~ for an Act to amend
3 and reenact section 50-24.1-02.6 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the personal
4 needs allowance amount for eligible beneficiaries.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 ~~— **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-24.5-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is~~
7 ~~amended and reenacted as follows:~~
8 ~~— **50-24.5-02. Powers and duties of the department.**~~
9 ~~— The department shall:~~
10 ~~— 1. Administer aid to vulnerable aged, blind, and disabled persons and supervise and~~
11 ~~direct human service zones in the administration of aid to vulnerable aged, blind, and~~
12 ~~disabled persons.~~
13 ~~— 2. Supplement, within the limits of legislative appropriation, the income of an eligible~~
14 ~~beneficiary receiving necessary basic care services to the extent that the eligible~~
15 ~~beneficiary lacks income sufficient to meet the cost of that care, provided at rates~~
16 ~~determined by the department adjusted by the inflation rate for basic care services~~
17 ~~used to develop the legislative appropriation for the department.~~
18 ~~— 3. Pay qualified basic care providers at rates determined by the department, within the~~
19 ~~limits of legislative appropriation.~~
20 ~~— 4. Issue payment to basic care facilities for services provided to an eligible beneficiary.~~

JB 2082

- 1 ~~5. Take action and give directions necessary to implement this chapter.~~
- 2 ~~6. Provide a monthly personal needs allowance, to be reviewed and adjusted~~
- 3 ~~annually based on inflation, in an amount no less than one hundred ten dollars.~~

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-24.1-02.6 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **50-24.1-02.6. Medical assistance benefits - Eligibility criteria.**

- 7 1. The department shall provide medical assistance benefits to otherwise eligible
- 8 persons who are medically needy persons who have countable income that does not
- 9 exceed an amount determined under subsection 2.
- 10 2. The department shall establish an income level for medically needy persons at an
- 11 amount no less than required by federal law.
- 12 3. The department shall provide medical assistance benefits to children and families
- 13 coverage groups and pregnant women without consideration of assets.
- 14 4. The department shall provide medical assistance benefits to otherwise eligible
- 15 pregnant women who are lawfully present in the United States.
- 16 5. The department may require, as a condition of eligibility, individuals eligible for
- 17 Medicare part A, B, or D to apply for such coverage.
- 18 6. The department shall provide a personal monthly needs allowance, to be reviewed
- 19 and adjusted annually based on inflation, in an amount not less than one hundred ten
- 20 dollars.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1485**

Human Services Committee (Rep. M. Ruby, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.1018.01001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (11 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1485 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

2025 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1485

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1485
2/17/2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 50-24.1-02.6 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the personal needs allowance amount for eligible beneficiaries.

10:37 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Vigesaa, Representatives Anderson, Berg, Bosch, Fisher, Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Meier, Mitskog, Monson, Murphy, Nathe, Nelson, O'Brien, Pyle, Richter, Stemen, Swiontek, Wagner

Members Absent: Vice Chairman Kempenich, Representatives Brandenburg, Sanford

Discussion Topics:

- Beneficiaries
- Health and Human Services

10:37 a.m. Representative Ruby introduced the Bill.

10:40 a.m. Representative Mitskog moved a Do Pass.

10:40 a.m. Representative Murphy seconded.

10:41 a.m. Roll Call Vote

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	A
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Berg	Y
Representative Glen Bosch	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	A
Representative Jay Fisher	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Eric J. Murphy	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy L. Pyle	Y

Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	A
Representative Gregory Stemen	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y
Representative Scott Wagner	Y

10:41 a.m. Motion passed 20-0-3.

10:41 a.m. Representative Beltz will carry the Bill.

10:42 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa closed the meeting.

Sierra Schartz, Committee Clerk

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED HB 1485 ([25.1018.02000](#))**

Appropriations Committee (Rep. Vigesaa, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (20 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 3 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1485 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2025 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1485

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

HB 1485
3/12/2025

Relating to the personal needs allowance amount for eligible beneficiaries.

10:38 a.m. Chairman Lee opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Lee, Vice-Chairman Weston, Senator Van Oosting, Senator Clemens, Senator Hogan, Senator Roers.

Discussion Topics:

- Medical Debt
- Public Awareness of financial limitations
- Past Session Increases

10:39 a.m. Representative Carrie A. McLeod introduced the bill and submitted testimony #40803.

10:42 a.m. Retha Mattern testified in favor and submitted testimony #40607.

10:50 a.m. Nikki J. Wegner, ND Long Term Care Association, testified in favor and submitted testimony #40172.

11:00 a.m. Shelly Peterson, Consultant of Long Term Care Association, testified in favor.

11:06 a.m. ElRoy Burkle testified in favor and submitted testimony #40500.

11:12 a.m. Pamela J. Mack, Director of Program Services with ND Protection & Advocacy Project, testified in favor and submitted testimony #40650.

11:14 a.m. Maurice W. Hardy, Director Dakota Central Human Service Zone, testified in favor and submitted testimony #40877.

11:16 a.m. Leanne Heath ND Health and Human Services testified in neutral.

Additional written testimony:

Florence Lang submitted written testimony in favor #40110.

Marian Emter submitted written testimony in favor #40111.

Lois Nodland submitted written testimony in favor #40116.

Sandy Fischer submitted written testimony in favor #40497.

11:20 a.m. Chairman Lee closed the hearing.

Senate Human Services Committee

HB 1485

3/12/2025

Page 2

Andrew Ficek, Committee Clerk

29 January 2025

To whom it may concern

I am writing in support of the HB 1485 to increase the personal monthly needs allowance. As a beneficiary and a current resident of a long term care facility, I find the current allowance to be insufficient. I currently use my funds for personal care items, cell-phone bill, and Bis-Man Transit tickets. Each month I find I am unable to afford personal items that help me feel confident and independent. I urge you to vote in support of this bill.

Florence Lang

Resident of Missouri Slope

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "FLORENCE LANG". The letters are somewhat stylized and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

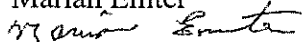
29 January 2025

To whom it may concern

I am writing in support of HB1485. As a beneficiary of the allowance I feel my input is important to consider. I am a resident at a skilled nursing facility. The current allowance is not sufficient to keep up with the inflation for self-care needs. Due to the current allowance, I am no longer able to afford to pay for my cellphone and rely on my daughter for her assistance. After I purchase the items that give me a sense of self such as having my hair done, crocheting materials, Bis-Man Transit tickets, and personal care products, I am left no additional funds.

I urge you to vote in support of this bill.

Marian Emter



Resident of Missouri Slope

1/30/2025

Members of the House Human Services Committee-

Re: HB 1485

My name is Lois Nodland, and I am the chair of the Resident Council at Missouri Slope Skilled Nursing Home in Bismarck, and I am a recipient of Medical Assistance. Please accept my testimony in favor of HB 1485, which increases the amount of the monthly personal needs allowance and provides for an inflationary increase for Medical Assistance Recipients.

Factors that I would like you to consider include that inflation impacts Medical Assistance recipients just as it impacts all North Dakotans. Additionally, an increase will positively impact North Dakota businesses as Medical Assistance recipients will spend this allowance in their local economies.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lois Nodland".

Lois Nodland

Chair, Resident Council, Missouri Slope Skilled Nursing Home

Testimony in Support of Increasing the Personal Needs Allowance
Senate Human Services Committee
March 12, 2025
Bill 1485

Chair Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, my name is Nikki Wegner, President of the North Dakota Long Term Care Association. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of HB 1485. I represent 182 nursing facilities, basic care facilities, and assisted living facilities. I am here to advocate for an increase in the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for residents in long term care settings, along with the implementation of an annual cost-of-living adjustment.

Background

The Personal Needs Allowance is a portion of a resident's income that is exempt from Medicaid calculations, allowing individuals to retain funds for personal expenses such as clothing, toiletries, and other personal items. Historically, the PNA in North Dakota remained stagnant for many years, failing to keep pace with inflation and the rising cost of living. In recognition of this issue, the 2023 Legislative Assembly approved an increase of \$35, raising the PNA for skilled nursing facilities to \$100 per month, effective July 1, 2023.

Current Situation

While the recent increase was a positive step, the current PNA still falls short of meeting the personal needs of our residents. The cost of essential items continues to rise, and \$100 per month is insufficient for residents to cover necessary expenses that enhance their quality of life. Furthermore, without a mechanism to adjust the PNA annually, residents will continue to experience a decline in their purchasing power over time.

We respectfully request the following:

1. **Increase the Personal Needs Allowance:** We support raising the PNA to at least \$110 per month. This adjustment would provide residents with a more adequate allowance to meet their personal needs.
2. **Implement an Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment:** To prevent the PNA from becoming outdated due to inflation, we recommend instituting an automatic annual adjustment tied to the Consumer Price Index. This measure would ensure that the PNA remains responsive to economic changes, maintaining its real value over time.

Rationale

- **Enhancing Quality of Life:** Residents use their PNA for personal items and activities that are not covered by Medicaid, such as clothing, personal hygiene products, haircuts from their preferred stylist, and small gifts for family members. Also, more and more would like to

have a smartphone. An increase would enable them to maintain dignity and a sense of normalcy in their daily lives.

- **Economic Considerations:** The cost of living has risen significantly, and the current PNA does not reflect these changes. Implementing an annual cost-of-living adjustment would ensure that residents' allowances keep pace with inflation, preventing future disparities.
- **Comparative Analysis:** Other states have recognized the importance of a sufficient PNA and have implemented higher allowances and annual adjustments.

[Personal Needs Allowance Facts](#)

Conclusion

Increasing the Personal Needs Allowance to at least \$110 per month and implementing an annual cost-of-living adjustment are necessary steps to support the dignity and well-being of residents in long term care facilities. These changes would demonstrate our state's commitment to caring for its most vulnerable citizens, ensuring they have the means to meet their personal needs and maintain a satisfactory quality of life.

We urge the committee for a Do Pass on this important legislation. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I am available to answer any questions you may have.

Nikki Wegner MS, OTR/L, President
North Dakota Long Term Care Association
1900 North 11th Street
Bismarck, ND 58501
(701) 222-0660
nikki@ndltca.org

Testimony on Personal Needs allowance amount for eligible individuals
Senate Human Services Committee
March 11, 2025
House Bill 1485

Dear Senate Human Services; Chair Senator Judy Lee and Senators Kent Weston, David A. Clemens, Kathy Hogan, Kristin Roers, Van Oosting and Desiree Van Oosting

My name is Sandy Fischer. Thank you for the opportunity to provide a written testimony on House Bill 1485, A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 50-24.5-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the personal needs allowance amount for eligible beneficiaries – specifically 6. Provide a monthly personal needs allowance; to be reviewed and adjusted annually based on inflation, in an amount no less than one hundred ten dollars.

I am a resident at Baptist Health & Rehab, a long-term care center located in Bismarck, ND. I have lived there since May 2012. Prior to an accident that placed my needs for skilled living services, I was the Director of Nursing at Baptist for nine years. I understand the needs of the residents and the needs for myself.

Currently, Medicaid recipients, such as I am, only get \$100 per month to spend on ourselves. This can be used for clothes, or other things that we want or need, such as cable TV, a phone to stay in communication with family or if we want any certain snacks that the facility does not provide.

Personally, I like a special toothpaste as well as special dental flossers that Baptist does not provide to the residents. At this time, I cannot purchase this item but with the extra \$10 per month, I could do that.

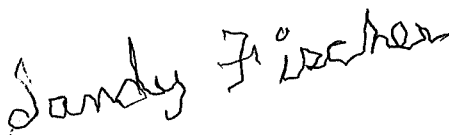
I also like to buy cards that I send to my family to stay in touch with during special days and holidays. I purchase the cards and stamps from the business office at Baptist.

While I get the local TV stations in my room, I pay for cable, as I depend on national media outlets to stay informed with the bigger picture of what is going on across our state and nation.

My family has to pitch in from time to time to buy things for myself that I cannot afford to purchase. While a move from \$100 to at least \$110 does not seem like a lot, to those of us that rely on the this process, an extra \$10 (minimally, annually with regards to inflation) is truly the difference in allowing us a bit of freedom to be self-sufficient and a bit of dignity to provide a bit more for ourselves.

Thank you for your time and consideration in supporting an adjustment in the personal needs allowance.

Sandy Fischer
Resident



Baptist Health & Rehab/3400 Nebraska Drive/Bismarck, ND 58504/(701) 223-3040

Date: March 10, 2025

To: North Dakota Senate Human Services Committee; Senator Lee, Chair

From: ElRoy Burkle, 4609 12D St NW, Garrison ND. Cell – 701-230-1973
Email: elroy.burkle@gmail.com

RE: Support of HB1485

I ask for your consideration for support on HB1485, increasing the monthly personal needs allowance for Medicaid recipients and including an inflation rider.

My mother, LaVina Burkle, was recently approved for Medicaid – Basic Care services effective January 1, 2025. She currently resides in the Basic Care Unit of the Wishek Living Center (WLC), Wishek, ND. When mom was 99 years and 11 months, she became ill with a severe bout of Influenza A (December 2022). She was independently living in an apartment connected to the WLC prior to this episode. After limited recovery, she believed it best to relocate to their Skilled Care Unit as a self-paid resident. WLC did not have a basic care unit at that particular time. Her personal funds fell below the \$3,000 Medicaid threshold during December of 2024 and she was approved for Medicaid Basic Care January 1, 2025. She currently resides at WLC – Basic Care wing. WLC was recently approved for basic care services so mom did not have to relocate to a different nursing home, which may have been very stressful and traumatic at 102 years of age.

As mom's POA (Power of Attorney) I assumed being the personal representative in all of her affairs. (Just a FYI, prior to December 2022, mom took care of all her obligations with very little input from me.) Her monthly personal allowance as a Medicaid Basic Care Recipient is \$135 per month. The rude awakening that this amount is to cover all of the over-the-counter medicines, landline phone, and any personal comfort items was going to be a challenge. HB 1485 proposed increase of \$10 per month to all Medicaid Resident Categories is needed and welcomed. The annual inflation adjustment provides recipients and their families with the knowledge that additional financial assistance will be provided.

I wish to praise all the people who have assisted my mom during the last 2 years plus and with the recent Medicaid Basic Care approval. The WLC staff, Wishek Pharmacy, and HHS Case Workers have been outstanding. Their efforts are greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank Senator Erbele for getting me in contact with Senator Lee; and Senator Lee for getting me in contact with Ms. Aker to address issues/concerns. These actions were calming and sincerely appreciated.

In closing, please vote green for HB 1485. Thank you for your time and consideration to this request.

Please feel free to contact me at the cell phone number or email provided for any questions or clarifications.

Testimony in favor of HB 1485
Personal Needs Allowance for Medicaid Recipients
Senate Human Services Committee
March 12, 2025

Chair Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, thank you for your consideration of HB 1485. My name is Retha Mattern, and I am here to share my family's personal experience in relation to long term care and Medicaid, and why I support the increase in personal needs allowance with an inflationary adjustment proposal in this bill.

Last fall, my mother and father-in-law lived comfortably and independently in their home in Minot. They purchased this home following the devastating flood in 2011, when their home of nearly four decades was destroyed. At that time, no one in our immediate family had ever thought we would be looking into the rules and regulations regarding Medicaid, and certainly never imagined that I would be here to advocate for an increase in its allowance.

My in-laws had done everything right in their lives. They both worked, he as a banker and she as a teacher. They saved money, had retirement income, and my father-in-law also receives a small monthly disability payment from his time in the North Dakota National Guard. He has a life insurance policy, and they had also taken out a long term care insurance policy. Together they raised one child, my husband Mark, and they doted on their grandchildren, our daughter Clara and son Finn. They were not wealthy, but lived comfortably within their means.

Everything changed after my father-in-law Dale suffered a heart attack in September. He survived but began to suffer a series of complications that would eventually result in three more hospital admissions and six surgeries before Christmas, initially at Trinity Hospital in Minot and then at Sanford in Bismarck. Days before his first surgery, he found his wife of 57 years, Kay, unresponsive in bed. She was life flighted to Sanford Hospital in Bismarck where she ultimately passed after spending 33 days receiving incredible care from the doctors, nurses, therapists, and others there.

For the last few weeks of her life, Dale and Kay were in the hospital together. The amazing staff and providers at Sanford went above and beyond to admit them onto the same floor. When her escalating medical needs required a step up in care, moving floors, they moved him as well. When they were both stable and awake at the same time, nurses would take one to visit the other, even on the night shift.

Dale was by her side holding her hand when she passed, along with Mark and me. His own medical condition, coupled with increasing dementia and inability to perform daily activities to care for himself, resulted in him requiring long-term skilled nursing care once he was able to be discharged – which was the day after her funeral. He is now residing at Missouri Slope, at the Washington campus, where we visit him frequently.

His initial admission was covered by Medicare, but that ended about six weeks ago. Now, we are having to spend all his assets to pay for his care. At more than \$530 a day, over 3x the amount covered by his long-term care insurance policy, his life savings and all of their other assets will be depleted in just a few months, at which point we will need to apply for coverage under Medicaid.

As we began researching the requirements for Medicaid, we learned that he would only be able to retain \$100 a month of his own income stream to pay for any incidentals or extras he may need. While all his immediate needs like medication and food are covered, things like replacing a worn-out pair of sweatpants or buying a new pair of shoes are not. With frequent washing in industrial facilities, clothing can wear out quickly. Instead, any of these extras, including things like a subscription to the newspaper or buying a new blanket, that would exceed \$100 a month total would likely fall to a family member to pay for. There is also a total asset limit, meaning someone can't necessarily just do without for one month and carry it over to the next.

There is no dignity for an older adult, a veteran, and a retired worker in having to rely on their child for any extra comforts. \$100 a month does not go very far. And, as inflation increases yearly, it will cover even less in the years ahead. By including an inflationary factor with the small increase in this bill, you are working to ensure that our elderly can retain a small amount of dignity at a time they are already so reliant on so many others for their daily needs.

Thank you for your consideration, and I would be happy to answer any questions.



Protection & Advocacy Project

400 E. Broadway, Suite 409

Bismarck, ND 58501

701-328-2950

1-800-472-2670

TTY: 711

www.ndpanda.org



Senate Human Services Committee

House Bill 1485 - March 12, 2025

Testimony of Pamela Mack, P&A Director of Program Services

Greetings Chairperson Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee. My name is Pamela Mack, I am a Program Director at the North Dakota Protection and Advocacy Project (P&A). P&A is an independent state agency established in 1977 to assert and advance the human, civil, and legal rights of people with disabilities. The agency's programs and services seek to make positive changes for people with disabilities where we live, learn, work, and play.

I am here today in support of House Bill 1485, which increases the personal needs allowance for individuals with disabilities who live in institutions and facilities through an annual inflationary increase. Historically, people with disabilities have been very limited in the amount of personal spending money that they can keep from their social security when they reside in a facility. The efforts that the legislature has taken to supplement this are a significant benefit to residents.

I would like to offer a consideration for the Committee and suggest adding language regarding how the inflationary increase will occur on an annual basis. One consideration would be to utilize the [consumer price index inflation calculator](#) so that a consistent and standardized method of calculation is used from year to year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Pamela Mack
Director of Program Services
pmack@nd.gov



North Dakota
House of Representatives
STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Representative Carrie McLeod

District 45
3640 Parker Place North
Fargo, ND 58102-4878
cmcleod@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:

Government and Veterans Affairs
Judiciary

March 12, 2025

Testimony HB1485

Representative Carrie McLeod, District 45

Chairwoman Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce HB1485 today. I am Representative Carrie McLeod from District 45, located in north Fargo and West Fargo north of Main Avenue. District 45 also includes the communities of Harwood, Argusville and Gardner.

HB1485 began with a request from a North Dakota citizen who was concerned about the resources of her loved one who was beginning to require long term care services. Her loved one is a veteran and has a veteran's disability. Along the journey that brought us to this bill, we have learned about current services, and the need to do more to support our elderly population and our veterans.

I learned from one of the individuals who will testify today that when there is a need for long term care for a loved one, resources can be quickly diminished, and even the veteran's disability benefit can be taken from the individual when they enter a Medicaid program.

I reached out to Veteran's Affairs and to the Long-Term Care leadership; to find that we must work with our federal delegation regarding the veteran's disability benefit. I also learned that we could make a difference through the long-term care and the personal needs allowance for eligible beneficiaries, and that has brought us to the bill before you.

While consulting with leadership from our Long-term Care Association the recommendation was made to increase the current benefit from \$100/month to \$110/month, and to add a provision for a yearly cost of living adjustment. Currently, there is no cost-of-living adjustment.

There is testimony on file from individuals who have shared what it will mean to them to have this additional \$10/month increase. There is a fiscal note attached to this bill. You will note on page 2 of the FN that there is a breakdown by facilities for the benefit. These amounts are for the biennium.

Madame Chair and Members of the Human Services Committee, I stand before you today asking for your support of HB1485.

Thank you.

Testimony Prepared for the

Senate Human Services Committee

March 12, 2025

Maurice Hardy; LBSW, MRC, Dakota Central Human Service Zone

RE: HB 1485 Personal Needs Allowance for Eligible Beneficiaries.

Chairlady Lee, and members of the Senate Human Services Committee. I am Maurice Hardy, Director of Dakota Central Human Service Zone, which includes the counties of McLean, Mercer, Oliver, and Sheridan. In addition, I am a member of the North Dakota Human Service Zone Director Association. I am here to provide testimony in support of the bill for Personal Needs Allowance for Eligible Beneficiaries.

Prior to my position as director of Dakota Central I was a Home and Community based case manager, 6 years in Golden Valley/Billings County, 2 years with Dakota Central Social Service District until 2020 when it became a zone and Case Managers became North Dakota State employees, which I was for almost another 3 years.

In that time, I would meet with our aged population and complete assessments and determine eligibility for the program and find out what assistance they needed to remain in their own homes. To my clients, staying in their own place and independent was their primary goal and also mine.

In that time, I met your average North Dakotan, determined, independent, and not wanting to be a burden. Little things met so much to them, such being able to shop for items they wanted or needed. A lot of the times it was for a birthday card for a family member, grandchild or great grandchild. Many times, I suspect they put a dollar or two in there from their meager income.

Many of these wonderful people had some personal items, like a certain lotion, soap, shampoo, etc.... that not only did they like, but seemed to be best for their skin, hair, and oral mouth care. Some have a favorite snack or treat that is no longer affordable. Basic care facilities cannot be expected to provide those specific items that a person prefers or wants for their personal care and residents use what is provided.

These wonderful people I worked with never really wanted to go to a basic care facility until they knew that was the safest place for them. For many to give up that independence of living in their own home was a very hard decision for them and their families and had some effect on their self-esteem.

They find out that they are allowed \$100 @ month for those personal items that brought them comfort. Being able to purchase clothing items they like, to a lotion, shampoo, toothpaste, a special treat, that has become a part of their life, becomes a costly item. They either do without or need to ask for help from a family member or friend, which is

hard. Imagine asking one of your children for \$10.00 so you can buy Birthday or Christmas cards, new socks, or underwear.

With inflation that has occurred in the last few years, \$100.00 does not go as far as it did four or five years ago. \$110.00 is a little better and will allow small purchases that give a little comfort to those that lead a proud independent life.

We believe this small increase in personal needs allowance for eligible beneficiaries with it tied inflation will let them know they are not forgotten and give a little more comfort. We ask for a DO PASS on HB 1485 and thank you for your time. I will stand for any questions.

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

HB 1485
3/17/2025

Relating to the personal needs allowance amount for eligible beneficiaries.

11:24 a.m. Chairman Lee opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Lee, Vice-Chairman Weston, Senator Van Oosting, Senator Clemens, Senator Hogan, Senator Roers.

Discussion Topics:

- Personal Care Costs
- Committee Action

11:24 a.m. Senator Roers led committee discussion regarding what would be an appropriate increase to the amount allowed for personal needs.

11:31 a.m. Senator Roers moved amendment LC#25.1018.02001.

11:31 a.m. Senator Weston seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Desiree Van Oosting	Y

Motion passed 6-0-0.

11:23 a.m. Senator Roers moved Do Pass as amended and rerefer to appropriations.

11:23 a.m. Senator Weston seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Desiree Van Oosting	Y

Motion passed 6-0-0.

Senate Human Services Committee

HB 1485

03/17/2025

Page 2

Senator Roers will carry the bill.

11:35 a.m. Vice-Chairman Weston closed the hearing.

Andrew Ficek, Committee Clerk

March 17, 2025

CO
3/17/25
101

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1485

Introduced by

Representatives McLeod, Rios, Satrom, Schauer, Swiontek, Weisz, Karls, Wagner

Senators Lee, Dever, Hogan, Cleary

- 1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 50-24.1-02.6 of the North Dakota Century
2 Code, relating to the personal needs allowance amount for eligible beneficiaries.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

- 4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-24.1-02.6 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **50-24.1-02.6. Medical assistance benefits - Eligibility criteria.**

- 7 1. The department shall provide medical assistance benefits to otherwise eligible
8 persons who are medically needy persons who have countable income that does not
9 exceed an amount determined under subsection 2.
10 2. The department shall establish an income level for medically needy persons at an
11 amount no less than required by federal law.
12 3. The department shall provide medical assistance benefits to children and families
13 coverage groups and pregnant women without consideration of assets.
14 4. The department shall provide medical assistance benefits to otherwise eligible
15 pregnant women who are lawfully present in the United States.
16 5. The department may require, as a condition of eligibility, individuals eligible for
17 Medicare part A, B, or D to apply for such coverage.
18 6. The department shall provide a personal monthly needs allowance, to be reviewed
19 and adjusted annually based on inflation, in an amount not less than ~~one hundred~~
20 tenone hundred fifty dollars.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED HB 1485**

Human Services Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.1018.02001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1485 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

2025 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1485

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Human Resources Division Harvest Room, State Capitol

HB 1485
3/31/2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 50-24.1-02.6 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the personal needs allowance amount for eligible beneficiaries.

10:21 a.m. Chairman Dever opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Dever and Senators Cleary, Davison, Magrum and Mathern.

Discussion Topics:

- \$150 personal needs allowance

10:22 a.m. Sara Aker, Executive Director, Medical Services Section, ND Department of Health & Human Services, (ND DHHS), testified in favor and answered committee questions.

10:28 a.m. Senator Cleary moved amendment to raise personal needs allowance by \$50.

10:28 a.m. Senator Mathern seconded the amendment.

Voice vote: Motion passed.

10:28 a.m. Senator Cleary moved Do Pass as Amended.

10:31 a.m. Sara Aker, Executive Director, Medical Services Section, ND DHHS, testified in favor and answered committee questions.

10:31 a.m. Senator Cleary withdrew Do Pass as Amended.

10:31 a.m. Senator Mathern withdrew his second on the motion.

10:33 a.m. Sara Aker, Executive Director, Medical Services Section, ND DHHS, testified in favor and answered committee questions.

10:34 a.m. Chairman Dever closed the hearing.

Joan Bares, Committee Clerk

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Human Resources Division Harvest Room, State Capitol

HB 1485
4/4/2025

Relating to the personal needs allowance amount for eligible beneficiaries.

9:20 a.m. Chairman Dever opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Dever and Senators Cleary, Davison, Magrum and Mathern.

Discussion Topics:

9:23 a.m. Senator Cleary moved amendment LC# 25.1018.02006 #44671.

9:26 a.m. Senator Davison seconded the motion.

Voice vote: Motion passed.

9:26 a.m. Senator Cleary moved Do Pass as Amended.

Senator Davison seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Jeffrey J. Magrum	N
Senator Tim Mathern	Y

Motion passed 4-1-0.

Senator Cleary will carry the bill.

9:27 a.m. Chairman Dever closed the hearing.

Joan Bares, Committee Clerk

25.1018.02006
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council
staff for Senator Cleary
April 1, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FIRST ENGROSSMENT

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1485

Introduced by

Representatives McLeod, Rios, Satrom, Schauer, Swiontek, Weisz, Karls, Wagner

Senators Lee, Dever, Hogan, Cleary

In place of the amendments (25.1018.02001) adopted by the Senate, House Bill No. 1485 is amended by amendment (25.1018.02006) as follows:

- 1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 50-24.1-02.6 of the North Dakota Century
- 2 Code, relating to the personal needs allowance amount for eligible beneficiaries and to provide
- 3 for an increase in the personal monthly needs allowance.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-24.1-02.6 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

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- 8 1. The department shall provide medical assistance benefits to otherwise eligible
- 9 persons who are medically needy persons who have countable income that does not
- 10 exceed an amount determined under subsection 2.
- 11 2. The department shall establish an income level for medically needy persons at an
- 12 amount no less than required by federal law.
- 13 3. The department shall provide medical assistance benefits to children and families
- 14 coverage groups and pregnant women without consideration of assets.
- 15 4. The department shall provide medical assistance benefits to otherwise eligible
- 16 pregnant women who are lawfully present in the United States.
- 17 5. The department may require, as a condition of eligibility, individuals eligible for
- 18 Medicare part A, B, or D to apply for such coverage.

- 1 6. The department shall provide a personal monthly needs allowance, to be reviewed
2 and adjusted annually based on inflation, ~~in an amount not less than one hundred ten~~
3 dollars.

4 **SECTION 2. PERSONAL MONTHLY NEEDS ALLOWANCE INCREASE.** The department
5 of health and human services shall increase the personal monthly needs allowance by fifteen
6 dollars for an individual covered under section 50-24.1-02.6, for the biennium beginning July 1,
7 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Harvest Room, State Capitol

HB 1485
4/8/2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 50-24.1-02.6 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the personal needs allowance amount for eligible beneficiaries.

9:14 a.m. Chairman Bekkedahl opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Bekkedahl, Vice-Chairman Erbele, and Senators Burckhard, Cleary, Conley, Davison, Dever, Dwyer, Magrum, Mathern, Meyer, Schaible, Sickler, Sorvaag, Wanzek.

Members Absent: Senator Thomas.

Discussion Topics:

- Other Funds Clarification
- Personal Allowance Clarification

9:14 a.m. Senator Cleary introduced the bill and submitted testimony #44782.

9:17 a.m. Senator Cleary moved amendment LC 25.1018.02006.

9:17 a.m. Senator Dever seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Paul J. Thomas	A
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion Passed 15-0-1.

9:19 a.m. Senator Cleary moved a Do Pass as Amended.

9:19 a.m. Senator Dever seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	N
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Paul J. Thomas	A
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion Passed 14-1-1.

Senator Cleary will carry the bill.

9:20 a.m. Chairman Bekkedahl closed the hearing.

Elizabeth Reiten, Committee Clerk

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

VG 4/8/25
1052

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1485

Introduced by

Representatives McLeod, Rios, Satrom, Schauer, Swiontek, Weisz, Karls, Wagner

Senators Lee, Dever, Hogan, Cleary

In place of the amendments (25.1018.02001) adopted by the Senate, House Bill No. 1485 is amended by amendment (25.1018.02006) as follows:

- 1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 50-24.1-02.6 of the North Dakota Century
2 Code, relating to the personal needs allowance amount for eligible beneficiaries; and to provide
3 for an increase in the personal monthly needs allowance.

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- 1 6. The department shall provide a personal monthly needs allowance, to be reviewed
2 and adjusted annually based on inflation, ~~in an amount not less than one hundred ten~~
3 dollars.

4 **SECTION 2. PERSONAL MONTHLY NEEDS ALLOWANCE INCREASE.** The department
5 of health and human services shall increase the personal monthly needs allowance by fifteen
6 dollars for an individual covered under section 50-24.1-02.6, for the biennium beginning July 1,
7 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED AND AMENDED HB 1485**

Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.1018.02006](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 1 NAY, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1485, as amended, was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

25.1018.02006
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council
staff for Senator Cleary
April 1, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1485

Do Pass as Amended
13-1-1
Cleary

Introduced by

Representatives McLeod, Rios, Satrom, Schauer, Swiontek, Weisz, Karls, Wagner

Senators Lee, Dever, Hogan, Cleary

In place of the amendments (25.1018.02001) adopted by the Senate, House Bill No. 1485 is amended by amendment (25.1018.02006) as follows:

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5 of health and human services shall increase the personal monthly needs allowance by fifteen
6 dollars for an individual covered under section 50-24.1-02.6, for the biennium beginning July 1,
7 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

2025 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

HB 1485

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1485
4/22/2025
Conference Committee

Relating to the personal needs allowance amount for eligible beneficiaries; and to provide for an increase in the personal monthly needs allowance.

11:00 a.m. Chairman Beltz opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Beltz, Representatives Dobervich, Rios, Senators Cleary, Magrum, Mathern

Discussion Topics:

- Amendment to the appropriation

11:01 a.m. Senator Cleary discussed the Senate's amendment, LC#25.1018.02006.

11:04 a.m. Senator Cleary moved amendments in place of the Senate amendment relating to an appropriation.

11:05 a.m. Representative Dobervich seconded the motion.

11:06 a.m. Motion passed 6-0-0.

Representative Beltz and Senator Cleary will carry the bill.

11:06 a.m. Chairman Beltz adjourned the meeting.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk

April 22, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

VC 4/22/25
1 of 2

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1485

Introduced by

Representatives McLeod, Rios, Satrom, Schauer, Swiontek, Weisz, Karls, Wagner

Senators Lee, Dever, Hogan, Cleary

In place of amendment (25.1018.02006) adopted by the Senate, Engrossed House Bill No. 1485 is amended by amendment (25.1018.02007) as follows:

- 1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 50-24.1-02.6 of the North Dakota Century
2 Code, relating to the personal needs allowance amount for eligible beneficiaries: to provide for
3 an increase in the personal monthly needs allowance; and to provide an appropriation.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-24.1-02.6 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **50-24.1-02.6. Medical assistance benefits - Eligibility criteria.**

- 8 1. The department shall provide medical assistance benefits to otherwise eligible
9 persons who are medically needy persons who have countable income that does not
10 exceed an amount determined under subsection 2.
11 2. The department shall establish an income level for medically needy persons at an
12 amount no less than required by federal law.
13 3. The department shall provide medical assistance benefits to children and families
14 coverage groups and pregnant women without consideration of assets.
15 4. The department shall provide medical assistance benefits to otherwise eligible
16 pregnant women who are lawfully present in the United States.
17 5. The department may require, as a condition of eligibility, individuals eligible for
18 Medicare part A, B, or D to apply for such coverage.

- 1 6. The department shall provide a personal monthly needs allowance, to be reviewed
2 and adjusted annually based on inflation, in an amount not less than one hundred ten
3 dollars.

4 **SECTION 2. PERSONAL MONTHLY NEEDS ALLOWANCE INCREASE.** The department
5 of health and human services shall increase the personal monthly needs allowance by fifteen
6 dollars for an individual covered under section 50-24.1-02.6, for the biennium beginning July 1,
7 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

8 **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES -**
9 **PERSONAL MONTHLY NEEDS ALLOWANCE INCREASE.** There is appropriated out of any
10 moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of
11 \$762,894, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, and from other funds derived from
12 federal and special funds, the sum of \$689,466, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to
13 the department of health and human services for the purpose of a personal monthly needs
14 allowance increase, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

HB 1485 042225 1105 AM Roll Call Vote

Final Recommendation

HB 1485

Date Submitted: April 22, 2025, 11:05 a.m.

Recommendation: In Place Of

Amendment LC #: 25.1018.02007

Engrossed LC #: N/A

Description:

Motioned By: Cleary, Sean

Seconded By: Dobervich, Gretchen

House Carrier: Beltz, Mike

Senate Carrier: Cleary, Sean

Emergency Clause: None

Vote Results: 6 - 0 - 0

Rep. Beltz, Mike	Yea
Rep. Dobervich, Gretchen	Yea
Rep. Rios, Nico	Yea
Sen. Cleary, Sean	Yea
Sen. Magrum, Jeffery J.	Yea
Sen. Mathern, Tim	Yea

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED HB 1485**

Your conference committee (Sens. Cleary, Magrum, Mathern and Reps. Beltz, Dobervich, Rios) recommends that in place of amendment [25.1018.02006](#) adopted by the Senate, Engrossed HB 1485 is amended by amendment [25.1018.02007](#).

Engrossed HB 1485 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.