

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DVA 2/13/2009

LRB Number	09-1317/1	Introduction Number	SB-039	Estimate Type	Original
Description Cash value of life insurance regarding eligibility for the veterans assistance program					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, the department may provide either subsistence or health care aid to eligible veterans, their un-remarried spouse or the dependent children of a deceased veteran. Eligibility for both subsistence and health care aid is restricted based on asset limitations. This bill would prohibit the inclusion of the cash surrender value of any life insurance policy when determining the applicant's available assets in order to establish eligibility for both types of aid.

Since 2005, there has only been one verifiable instance where the department denied an applicant either subsistence or health care aid on the basis of the surrender value of a life insurance policy. However, that number is somewhat misleading since applications for subsistence aid and health care aid are screened for eligibility by County Veteran Service Officers (CVSO) prior to being submitted to the department. Consequently, it is unknown how many applications have not been submitted to the department because the CVSO determined that an applicant's available assets exceeded the asset limits. As a result, it is not possible to estimate the fiscal effect of this bill.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications