Fiscal Estimate - 2011 Session

Original Updated	Corrected Supplemental					
LRB Number 11-2252/1	Introduction Number AB-0282					
Description Relating to: tax-exempt accounts for health care expenditures for an individual's parents						
Fiscal Effect						
Appropriations Reversible Decrease Existing Decrease Existing Reversible Decrease Existing Reversible Decrease Reversible Decrease New Appropriations Local: No Local Government Costs Indeterminate 1. Increase Costs Permissive Mandatory Permissive Decrease Costs 4. Decrease Costs	ase Existing Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget Yes No Decrease Costs 5.Types of Local Government Units Affected Towns Village Cities Counties Others ease Revenue issive Mandatory ease Revenue issive Mandatory Districts Districts					
Fund Sources Affected Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEGS						
Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature Date					
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives DHS 10/24/2011

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Description					
Relating to: tax-exempt accounts for health care expenditures for an individual's parents					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

AB 282 provides that an adult child of a parent may establish an account for his or her parent to pay for health care expenses of the parent. The bill also provides that an adult child may deduct from their Wisconsin taxable income an amount up to \$2,000 per parent, but not more than \$4,000 annually.

Further, this bill requires the Department of Health Services (DHS) to request and implement any waivers of federal Medicaid laws or state plan amendments necessary to exempt the account from liability as a third party for payments under the Medicaid program.

While the bill directs DHS to exempt the savings accounts from third party liability, the bill may affect some individuals' eligibility for Medicaid. Under this bill, individuals with a balance in an account authorized under this bill may be required to spend down the account as a condition of Medicaid eligibility as the value of the account would be a countable asset in eligibility determination. Also, individuals enrolled in Medicaid and who also receive contributions to an account authorized under this bill may lose Medicaid eligibility as contributions to an account authorized under this bill would be countable income under Medicaid eligibility policy.

To the extent that parents whose adult children contribute to an account authorized under this bill apply for Medicaid and those contributions impact the parents' Medicaid eligibility, there may be a small reduction in caseload, resulting in nominal savings to the Medicaid program. However, any savings to Medicaid as a result of accounts established under this bill will be minimal and cannot be estimated.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications