

Health policy bill

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A 1968: Personal Needs Allowance for the Elderly Residing in Nursing
Facilities of the Health Sciences and Medicine

Name of the Concerned Professor

October 3, 2011

A 1968: Personal Needs Allowance for the Elderly Residing in Nursing
Facilities

It is a known fact that most of the times the persons residing in nursing facilities and state hospitals tend to be the elderly, a significant proportion of whom suffer from chronic diseases. In addition to the medical expenses of these elderly suffering from chronic diseases, they also tend to have requisite personal expenses. The bill A 1968 introduced in the New Jersey legislature on February 8, 2010 and sponsored by assemblymen Jack Connors and Herb Conaway Jr addresses the personal expenses aspect of the elderly residing in the state nursing homes and hospitals.

As per this bill, there are almost 35, 000 persons who reside in nursing facilities, state or county psychiatric facilities and State developmental centers. It would not be wrong to conclude that a significant number of these persons are the elderly suffering from chronic diseases like dementia. The Personal Needs Allowance is primarily spent by these patients to purchase items of personal need like clothing, newspapers and books and personal grooming accessories, which are not provided for by these health facilities. The legislation A 1968 introduced in the New Jersey Legislature proposes to increase the monthly personal needs allowance of these person from \$ 35 to \$ 50.

This increase amounts to an annual increase in the personal needs allowance of these persons to \$ 180. This increase envisaged by the bill under

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consideration will immensely help improve the quality of life of the elderly suffering from chronic diseases and residing in the hospitals, nursing homes and psychiatric facilities.

References

Bills 2010-2011. A 1968. New Jersey Legislature. Retrieved October 3, 2011, from <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bills/BillView.asp>