

JAN 18 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHORE SERVICES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Section 346-64.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 " ~~[+]~~ §346-64.5 ~~[+]~~ **Eligibility for chore services.** (a) An
4 applicant for chore services shall be eligible when the
5 applicant meets program requirements for chore services and
6 income eligibility standards as established by the department of
7 human services.

8 (b) Program requirements to determine an applicant's
9 eligibility for chore services pursuant to subsection (a) shall
10 include an assessment of whether the applicant has a family
11 member who is capable of providing chore services and the types
12 and extent of chore services the family member is capable of
13 providing for the applicant. The assessment shall include a
14 determination of whether the family member has:

15 (1) The physical and mental ability to perform each type
16 of chore service necessary for the applicant, which



1 shall be certified by a physician licensed pursuant to
2 chapter 453 who has examined the family member; and

3 (2) Sufficient time to perform necessary chore services
4 for the applicant, which shall be determined by an
5 independent third party who is not an employee or
6 agent of an insurance company or the department.

7 (c) Income eligibility standards for chore services
8 pursuant to subsection (a) shall include [~~individuals who have~~]
9 an assessment of the applicant to determine whether the
10 individual:

11 (1) Has been found eligible for medical assistance under
12 the department's medicaid program[~~-~~]; and

13 (2) Has the ability to pay a portion of the cost share of
14 the chore services with any balance to be covered by
15 the individual's insurance plan or the department's
16 program;

17 provided that the individual satisfies all other applicable
18 program requirements and income eligibility standards.

19 [~~(b)~~] (d) For the purposes of this section[~~, "chore~~]:

20 "Chore services" means essential housecleaning and related
21 activities such as marketing, cooking, and cleaning.



1 "Family member" means an applicant's spouse, child,
2 grandchild, parent, grandparent, or any individual related by
3 blood, marriage, adoption, or legal guardianship, or as
4 reciprocal beneficiaries, who resides in the same household of
5 the applicant."

6 SECTION 2. (a) To improve access for disabled persons
7 seeking chore services, the department of human services shall:

8 (1) Improve and streamline the application and approval
9 process for "DHS form 1147" by eliminating the rating
10 and ranking of a disabled applicant's disability for
11 purposes of qualifying to receive chore services.

12 Application approval shall not consider the quantity
13 of services needed or the severity of the applicant's
14 disability to determine priority of an individual's
15 application;

16 (2) Pursue all available federal funding sources to
17 maximize state program availability and reimbursement
18 for chore services;

19 (3) Consider establishment of a dependent care loan
20 program that would loan funds to qualified individuals
21 to pay for chore service expenses, who could then



1 claim a tax credit that, once refunded, would enable
2 them to repay the department for the dependent care
3 loan;

4 (4) Expand the first to work program to include training
5 and assistance to help unemployed individuals sign up
6 to become freelance chore services workers, which
7 shall include:

8 (A) Assisting in self-employment processes for
9 applicants to become simple sole proprietors to
10 serve as chore service workers; and

11 (B) Working with the department of labor and
12 industrial relations to publish a list of
13 freelance chore service workers' contact
14 information, with ratings submitted by chore
15 service clients, to be posted on the department
16 of labor and industrial relations' website and
17 the department of human services' MedQUEST
18 website.

19 (b) The department of human services shall submit a report
20 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
21 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior



1 to the convening of the regular session of 2025, concerning the
2 status of items specified in subsection (a).

3 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
4 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
5 begun before its effective date.

6 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
9 provided that section 1 of this Act shall take effect upon
10 approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

11

INTRODUCED BY:



S.B. NO. 2180

Report Title:

DHS; Chore Services; Eligibility; Program Requirements; Income Eligibility Standards; Report

Description:

Requires the Department of Human Services' program requirements for chore services to include an assessment of whether the applicant has a family member who is available and capable of providing necessary chore services for the applicant. Requires income eligibility standards for chore services to include an assessment of whether the individual has the ability to pay a portion of the cost of the chore services they receive. Requires the Department of Human Services to improve access for disabled persons seeking chore services by taking certain actions and submitting a report to the Legislature.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

