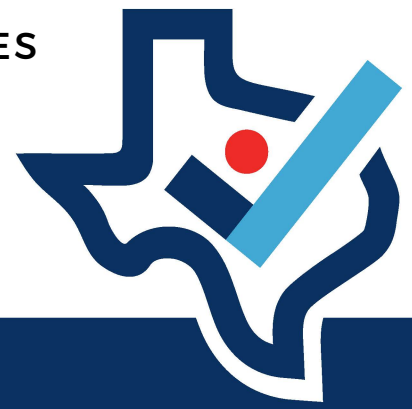


House Bill (HB) 54

Rep. Senfronia Thompson



Personal Needs Allowance

HB 54 would increase the personal needs allowance for residents of long-term care facilities, from \$60 per month to \$85 per month. These allowances are generally used to purchase personal goods and services that are not provided by the facilities or Medicaid, such as toiletries, shoes, clothing, haircuts, or even cell phones and corresponding data.



The monthly rate of the personal needs allowance has not been raised by lawmakers since 2007, when it was increased from \$45 per month to \$60 per month. Cumulative inflation for that period is estimated to be over 43%.



The monthly amount, which is sometimes referred to as a "personal dignity allowance," is deducted from the regular care payments to the facilities and funded by both state and federal dollars.



In 2021, similar legislation was supported by the Texas Medical Association, Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops, The Arc of Texas, AARP, Methodist Healthcare Ministries, and Texas Association of Health Plans.

"Long-term care residents on Medicaid consistently face a shortfall with the just \$60 in the personal allowance. This leaves them to prioritize their purchases and wait until the next month or longer for essential items. Just a small increase will have a huge impact on their quality of life."

Public comment to the House Human Services Committee on a similar bill, March 2021

