



CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE

SANTA CLARA COUNTY NEWS

Volume 49

Number 1

January,

2007

Senior Senator Bob Jaffee, Editor

CSL 2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

STATE PRIORITIES

CSL URGENCY PROPOSAL

AP-28-Sr. Asy.member Monk-& Sr. Senator Levy-LONG-TERM CARE OPTIONS. This proposal would establish the right of any person in need of long-term Care services that are available in an institutional setting to receive those services in the community and to make changes in programs and agencies to implement that right.

AP-9 Sr. Asy. Members Glasmeier and Woods; Tribal gaming Funding for Senior Centers. Proposal would set aside 20% from tribal gaming payments to the State to fund senior citizen centers.

AP-14- Sr. Asy.member Lucero-Hearing Aid Availability and Cost. Proposal requires that hearing aids be made available for over-the-counter sales and vendors be encouraged to submit a plan to the Hearing Aid Dispensers Bureau

AP-16- Sr. Asy.member Lucero-Pharmaceutical Expiration Dates; (H) Proposal requires the inclusion of an accurate "best before" date on pharmaceutical products.

AP-18- Sr. Asy.member Taylor-Senior Mobilehome Park Rent Control. Proposal imposes rent control on seniors-only Mobilehome parks that limits rent increases to the CPI.

AP-19-Sr. Asy.member Trotter- Senior Facility Infrastructure Upgrades. Proposal establishes a study of the infrastructure needs being shaped by increases in the senior population and includes funding for upgrades and renovations.

SP-2 Sr. Senator Fromm- IHSS Criminal Background Checks. Proposal authorizes IHSS public authorities to obtain criminal background checks and subsequent arrest notification for non-IHSS providers.

SP-4-Sr. Senator Griswold – Property Tax Exemptions. Proposal increases the homeowner's property tax exemption from \$7,000 to \$27,000 for seniors.

SP-17-Sr. Senator Mack- Large Print Prescription Warnings. Proposal requires pharmacists to include large print inserts with prescriptions warning of drug interactions.

(OVER)

SP-18 Sr. Senator Wright – Oral Health in Nursing Homes. Proposal requires that the DHS review the oral health component of nursing home treatment plans on a quarterly basis for proper completion and that appropriate referrals to dental professionals be made, with failures reported as abuse.

SP-22 Sr. Senator Murphy – Line 54 Contributions. Proposal permits designations to be made to line 54 on amended tax returns.

FEDERAL PROPOSALS

AFP-2 Sr. Asy.members Shontz & Gould- Parkinson’s Prescription Renewal. Proposal changes the renewal period for Parkinson’s Medicare prescriptions from 30 to 180 days.

AFP-3 Sr. Asy.member Mitchell- Aircraft Portable Oxygen Devices. Proposal requires aircraft operators to allow passengers on oxygen therapy to carry on and operate portable oxygen devices.

AFP-5 Sr. Asy.member Lucero-Sale of Personal Information. Proposal requires business entities to obtain written permission from seniors prior to the sale of personal information.

SFP- 11-Sr. Senator Gehrig- Medicare Podiatric Preventive Care. Proposal expands Medicare coverage to include a co-pay for one annual podiatric care visit.

NOTE: STATE BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR COMMITTEE HEARINGS IN JAN. & FEB.

MEDICARE MEANS TESTING FOR PART B—Reprinted from article by Harvey Robinson, Cupertino Union School District, Health Committee

Commencing January 2007, Supplemental Medicare Insurance (Part B) premiums, which help pay for doctors services and outpatient coverage, will be subject to an “income” means test. This change is part of the Medicare Drug and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA, P.L. 108-173).

Only those individuals whose modified adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeds \$80,000 or couples filing jointly whose AGI exceed \$160,000 are impacted. The term modified AGI means adjusted gross income as defined under the Internal Revenue Code (determined without regard to specific exclusions), increased by tax exempt interest. The AGI used will reflect AGI reported two years prior to determine the subject amount, e.g. the AGI used in 2007 will reflect the AGI reported in 2005.

In the past, each beneficiary has paid for 25% of the total cost of the Part B premium with the Federal Government paying the remaining 75%. In the future instead of everyone paying a uniform premium, e.g. \$88.50 per month in 2006, a progressive premium increase (which is estimated to impact 3% of beneficiaries) will be applied starting in 2007 and up to 2009 and beyond on a subject person or couple’s modified AGI. This increase is reflected as the percent of total Part B premium the beneficiary will pay in the following tables.

Individual AGI	2007	2008	2009 and Beyond
Less than \$80,000	25%	25%	25%
\$80,001 – 100,000	28.3%	31.7%	35%
\$100,001, - \$150,000	33.25%	41.75%	50%
150,001 - \$200,000	38.2%	51.8%	65%
Over \$200,000	43.15%	61.85%	80%

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