

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2025 REGULAR SESSION**

### **Committee Substitute**

**for**

### **Senate Bill 169**

By Senator Chapman

[Reported February 26 2025, from the Committee on  
Health and Human Resources]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,  
2 designated §9-5-34, relating to increasing the Medicaid personal needs allowance;  
3 establishing legislative findings; defining the term “personal needs allowance”; and setting  
4 the effective date to July 1, 2026.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia: \_*

## **ARTICLE 5. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.**

### **§9-5-34. Medicaid personal needs allowance.**

1 (a) Legislative findings. – The Legislature finds that for the purpose of providing dignity for  
2 our elderly citizens, the Medicaid personal needs allowance should be increased. By increasing  
3 the personal needs allowance, senior citizens would be entitled to money for their personal needs,  
4 such as clothing, denture supplies, and other necessities.

5 (b) Definition. – “Personal needs allowance” means the amount of monthly income a  
6 Medicaid-funded nursing home resident can keep of their personal income to spend on personal  
7 items and services. This includes, but is not limited to, cosmetic services, personal clothing,  
8 flowers and plants, and gifts purchased on behalf of a resident.

9 (c) Enactment. – The Medicaid personal needs allowance shall be increased to \$150 per  
10 month, effective July 1, 2026.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to increase the Medicaid personal needs allowance starting July 1, 2026.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.