By: Chavez H.B. No. 52

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the personal needs allowance for certain Medicaid recipients who are residents of long-term care facilities.

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

SECTION 1. Section 32.024(w), Human Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

(w) The department shall set a personal needs allowance of not less than $60 [~~$45~~] a month for a resident of a convalescent or nursing home or related institution licensed under Chapter 242, Health and Safety Code, personal care facility, ICF-MR facility, or other similar long-term care facility who receives medical assistance. The department may send the personal needs allowance directly to a resident who receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) (42 U.S.C. Section 1381 et seq.). This subsection does not apply to a resident who is participating in a medical assistance waiver program administered by the department.

SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision, the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the waiver or authorization is granted.

SECTION 3. Section 32.024(w), Human Resources Code, as amended by this Act, applies only to a personal needs allowance paid

on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.