



DEPARTMENT OF AUDITS AND ACCOUNTS

270 Washington St., S.W., Suite 1-156
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-8400

Greg S. Griffin
STATE AUDITOR
(404) 656-2174

February 8, 2018

Honorable Renee Unterman
Chairman, Senate Health and Human Services
121-F State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note
Senate Bill 370 (LC 37 2515)

Dear Chairman Unterman:

This bill would waive the first \$25,000 of a Medicaid recipient's estate from any claims made by the Department of Community Health (DCH). Currently, DCH does not pursue estate recovery against estates of less than \$25,000. However, those valued over \$25,000 are subject to recovery of the entire estate value. DCH must submit the bill's proposed change to the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for approval. If approval is not granted by CMS, the statute would be repealed.

Using Medicaid estate recovery data from prior years, DCH estimated that the bill would reduce recoveries by \$400 thousand to \$1 million annually. In FY 2017, DCH recovered \$4.1 million from the estates of Medicaid recipients. The proposed legislation would have decreased DCH estate recoveries by approximately \$600,000 (15%).

Sincerely,

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

Teresa A. MacCartney, Director
Office of Planning and Budget

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