

HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

Bill:	House File 2641	House Committee: PASSED 2/17/26 (21-0)
Committee:	Health and Human Services	House Floor:
Floor Manager:	Rep. Hans Wilz	Senate Floor:
Date:	February 26, 2026	Governor:
Staff:	Natalie Ginty (281-7479)	

Elderly Waiver

- This bill requires DHHS to adopt rules allowing individuals to begin transition planning to discharge a resident from skilled nursing to a lower-level of care and defines units of assisted living services for the Elderly Waiver.
- **Fiscal Note:** The total estimated cost for FY27 is \$5.6 million, which \$2.1 million is state cost. The total estimate cost for FY28 is \$5.4 million, which \$2 million is state cost.
 - The Iowa Health Care Association does not believe this DHHS estimate includes decreased use of nursing facilities. IHCA estimates the state fiscal impact to be \$343,189.65 if only 12 individuals are able to step down. If more are able, then IHCA estimates this to have savings to the state.

Section by Section Analysis

Section 1 (Iowa Code 249A.32C) – New Section

Requires DHHS to adopt rules to allow case managers to work with skilled nursing facility residents, family members and staff to initiate transition planning from SNF to HCBS Elderly Waiver services prior to the discharge of a resident. Transition planning includes needs assessments, care coordination and service planning.

Requires DHHS to define “targeted population” as an adult who is identified with ID, chronic mental illness, or developmental disability, or a child who is eligible for ID or children’s mental health HCBS waiver services, or an adult aged 65 or older who is a NF resident.

Section 2 – Medicaid Elderly Waiver – Assisted Living Services

DHHS shall adopt rules to define “assisted living service” as personal care and supportive services, specify that units are one day and billable only if the member is part of the facility’s bed census and had at least one service encounter for that day.