



Senator Norma Champion
30th Senate District

MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

Capitol Building, Room 320
Jefferson City, MO 65101

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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General Assembly Approves Sen. Champion's Measure to Benefit Seniors in Long-term Care

JEFFERSON CITY – The General Assembly today gave final approval to the House's version of a bill sponsored by Senator Norma Champion (R-Springfield) that provides residents in long-term care facilities with an increased personal needs allowance. [House Bill 395](#) now moves to the governor's desk for his signature.

A personal needs allowance is a small portion of an individual's monthly Social Security check that is given to the individual for personal needs not provided by the long-term care facility. Sen. Champion's measure creates a means for the allowance to increase incrementally over time, beginning in 2010, from its current \$30 per month to a maximum of \$50 per month. The allowance would increase by no more than \$5 annually and would come from the recipients' annual Social Security cost of living allowance increase. Any additional amount beyond \$50 would require annual appropriation from the General Assembly.

"I am thrilled that my colleagues in the Senate and House have endorsed this legislation," Sen. Champion said. "This will amount to the first personal needs allowance increase for the residents of long-term care facilities in more than 20 years."

Many residents use the personal needs allowance for expenses such as a telephone, hair services, clothing, snacks, stationery and postage, small gifts for their friends and family, and outings coordinated by the facility.

"This small allowance provides residents with more independence and a greater sense of control over their finances," Sen. Champion said. "I am anxious for the governor to sign HB 395 into law because of the meaningful difference this will make in the lives of seniors."

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