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## OLR Bill Analysis

### SB 931

#### ***AN ACT EXPANDING ACCESS TO THE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESPITE CARE PROGRAM.***

#### **SUMMARY**

Starting July 1, 2023, this bill expands eligibility for individuals with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders to participate in the state's Respite Care Program (see BACKGROUND). It does so by increasing the program's (1) annual income limit from \$51,114 to \$70,000 and (2) annual liquid asset limit from \$135,892 to \$179,000. (Current income and asset limits reflect annual Social Security cost of living adjustments.) Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, participants cannot enroll in the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders.

The bill also (1) eliminates the requirement that the Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS) commissioner operate the program within available appropriations and (2) appropriates \$1 million from the General Fund to ADS, in each of FYs 24 and 25, to expand program access.

Lastly, the bill makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Statewide Respite Care Program***

By law, the Respite Care Program provides respite for caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders. Program participants may receive up to \$7,500 in services annually, depending on need. The program provides homemaker, personal care assistant, adult day care, short-term medical and facility care, home health care, and companion services. Participants may be required to pay a portion of the cost.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15 Nay 0 (02/28/2023)