

Are the numbers discovered above reasonable or reliable? Only some outcome analysis of real estates will tell.

The category of assets described as "NON-PROBATE ASSETS" is likely to further reduce the probable numbers.

The Policy Issues:

Can Households who have created estates worth more than \$275,000 be trusted to manage their estates? I would assume so. Others would not. If heirs or Executors or Personal Representatives need help with matters testate or intestate, and processing and closing the estate, they will likely seek help from an attorney.

Do these policy price brackets necessarily distinguish a simple estate from not simple?

Whether an estate is simple or not simple, Heirs and PRs will inventory the estate. Are there differing standards for accountability for simple vs not simple estates?

Whether an estate is simple or not, the liabilities of the estate will have to be settled.

The relationship between assets and liabilities of the estate may be a better indicator of whether or not an estate is "simple".

If an estate has real property, personal property and liquid assets, and no long term or current liabilities, it seems it should be simple. If the estate has real and personal property and liquid assets exceeding its liabilities, it seems the estate may be simple. If an estate has liabilities in excess of its assets, the estate is not likely to be simple.

Will the policy brackets lower costs for processing estates, or change the burden on courts for probating estates? It depends upon how people manage the assets in their estates, creating non-probate assets or trusts, for example.

The new policy brackets simply adjust monetary values for the definition of a simple estate.

Are there other resources that can better inform the likely effect of these policy brackets? Presumably the courts could provide data under the current definitions.

Perhaps the only way to determine whether there is a beneficial effect is to try the change and monitor the results.

I believe the proposed legislation without amendments is worthy the study.

Either with this legislation or with future legislation, I would encourage considering the variable of liabilities of the estate to find the formula that best distinguishes simple vs not simple estates and serves the citizens and the public interests in estate administration.