

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHS 1/25/2016

LRB Number	15-4181/1	Introduction Number	AB-0723	Estimate Type	Original
Description Regulating the production and use of photo identification cards by local units of government					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill prohibits identification cards issued by local units of government from being used as an eligibility verification source for certain public assistance programs included under s.253.06 or ch. 49. The Department of Health Services (DHS) operates the following programs that are included under this bill: Medicaid (MA), FoodShare (FS), SeniorCare, SSI Supplement, SSI Caretaker Supplement (CTS), Wisconsin Cemetery and Funeral Aids Program (WFCAP), Wisconsin Family Planning Waiver, and Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program (WCDP), and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

Federal FoodShare regulations require verification of identity for the purposes of determining program eligibility; however, according to 7 CFR 273.2(f)(1)(vii), any document which reasonably establishes the applicant's identity must be accepted, and no requirement for a specific type of document may be imposed. Federal regulation allows identification cards issued by a local government to be used as verification of identity for the purposes of determining FoodShare program eligibility. It is notable that this bill would implement a more restrictive policy that may conflict with Federal regulations regarding FoodShare eligibility verification. If enacted, this bill may jeopardize the State's receipt of Federal matching funds for administration of the FoodShare program, should the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) interpret the law to violate Federal FoodShare regulations governing program eligibility verification requirements. The GPR cost associated with FNS determining such a violation is unknown.

Federal Medicaid law also requires individuals declaring to be U.S. citizens or nationals to verify their U.S. citizenship and identity in order to receive, or continue to receive, Medicaid (MA) and BadgerCare Plus (BC+) benefits. To verify citizenship and identity when someone applies for or renews MA/BC+, the State's Client Assistance for Reemployment and Economic Support (CARES) public benefit eligibility system currently conducts automated, real-time information checks against Social Security Assistance (SSA) and Department of Homeland Security databases. In the majority of cases, the results of these information checks are used to verify citizenship and identity. This information also meets the verification requirements necessary for FoodShare and the SSI Caretaker Supplement, in cases where multiple programs are requested. Currently, for the limited number of cases where manual verification of identity is required for health care, a local government identification card may be considered one of many acceptable forms of identity verification, if that document includes the same information that is included on a driver's license.

Under current law, when an application for MA/BC+, FoodShare, or any other public benefit program included in CARES is pending for verification of identity, the system automatically mails the applicant a notice of request for verification. This notice currently includes language stating that a federal, state, or local government ID card is an acceptable form of verification. Enactment of this bill would necessitate removal of this language from the notice of request for verification. The Department estimates that the development effort associated with updating this notice would result in a one-time cost of \$52,000 AF (\$26,000 GPR).

Long-Range Fiscal Implications