



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**January 2018 Special Session
Assembly Bill 2**

**Assembly
Amendments 1, 2, 3, and 4**

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JANUARY 2018 SPECIAL SESSION ASSEMBLY BILL 2

Current statutes authorize the Department of Health Services (DHS) to require able individuals between 18 and 60 years old to participate in the FoodShare Employment and Training Program (FSET) as a condition of FoodShare eligibility, unless the person is the caretaker of a child under the age of six, enrolled in school half-time or more, or participating in a Wisconsin Works employment position. In practice, however, participation in the FSET program is currently voluntary.

January 2018 Special Session Assembly Bill 2 (“the bill”) states that, beginning on October 1, 2019, DHS must require all able-bodied adults to participate in FSET as a condition of FoodShare eligibility to the extent allowed by the federal government, unless the person is the caretaker of a child under the age of six or enrolled in school half-time or more. DHS may continue to require certain other able individuals between 18 and 60 years old to participate in FSET.¹

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 modifies the extent to which participation in FSET can make a person eligible for a Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy. Wisconsin Shares is generally

¹ The term “able individuals” is not defined. An “able-bodied adult” is defined to mean anyone who is not: (1) younger than 18; (2) older than 50; (3) medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for employment; (4) exempt from the work requirement under federal law; or (5) pregnant. [s. 49.79 (1) (am), Stats.]

available to low-income families with children under the age of 13 who are participating in an “approved activity.” Currently, participation in any component of FSET is considered an approved activity for Wisconsin Shares eligibility. Assembly Amendment 1 specifies that only the job search and work experience components of FSET are approved activities for Wisconsin Shares eligibility. The amendment reinstates the statutory language that existed prior to this session’s biennial budget, 2017 Wisconsin Act 59.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 2

Assembly Amendment 2 requests that the Joint Legislative Audit Committee direct the Legislative Audit Bureau to perform a financial and performance evaluation audit of FSET in 2019.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 3

Assembly Amendment 3 states that DHS does not have to require able-bodied adults who are employed, as determined by DHS, to participate in FSET. It also requires DHS to request that the U.S. Department of Agriculture share at least some of the savings from reforms to Wisconsin’s food share program and FSET to facilitate administration of assisting able-bodied adults in finding employment.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 4

Assembly Amendment 4 prohibits DHS from requiring an individual who is a caretaker of a dependent who is disabled to participate in FSET.

BILL HISTORY

Representative Vos offered Assembly Amendment 1 on February 6, 2018, the Assembly Committee on Public Benefit Reform recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 3, and passage of the bill as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 3. On February 15, 2018, Representative Loudenberg offered Assembly Amendment 2, Representative Vos offered Assembly Amendment 3, and Representatives Rodriguez and Loudenberg offered Assembly Amendment 4 on February 15, 2018. The Assembly adopted Assembly Amendments 1 through 4 on February 15, 2018.

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