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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

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<p><b>2017 Wisconsin Act 263</b> [January 2018 Special Session Assembly Bill 1]</p>	<p><b>FSET Participation Hours</b></p>
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### BACKGROUND

Federal law requires each state to operate an employment and training program for food stamp recipients. Participation in Wisconsin's FoodShare Employment and Training Program (FSET) is currently voluntary.

Currently, the number of hours of FSET participation can vary for FoodShare recipients who choose to participate in the program. Able-bodied adults without dependents are generally required to complete 80 hours of work per month in order to remain eligible for more than three countable months of FoodShare benefits during any three-year period. These individuals can choose to participate in FSET to satisfy all or a portion of their 80 hours. Other FoodShare recipients may also choose to participate in FSET and, if they choose to participate, must complete at least 12 hours of FSET activities per month.<sup>1</sup>

Under 2017 Wisconsin Act 264, beginning on October 1, 2019, the Department of Health Services (DHS) must require, subject to certain exceptions, that all able-bodied adults participate in FSET to the extent allowed by the federal government.

The term "able-bodied adult" is defined to mean an individual between the ages of 18 and 50 years old who is physically and mentally fit for employment, and is not pregnant or exempt from federal laws that set forth general work requirements for the food stamp program. An able-bodied adult who is not a parent of, or residing in a household with, a household

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<sup>1</sup> *FSET Handbook*, DHS, Release 17-02, ss. 6.3.1 through 6.3.2.3 (Oct. 30, 2017).

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

member under 18 years old is considered an “able-bodied adult without dependents.” [s. 49.79 (1) (am) and (ap), Stats.]

**2017 WISCONSIN ACT 263**

2017 Wisconsin Act 263 states that if able-bodied adults without dependents are required to participate in FSET, DHS must: (1) set the required number of hours of FSET participation for able-bodied adults without dependents at the maximum number allowed by the federal government; and (2) set the same number of required hours of FSET participation for able-bodied adults with dependents. The second requirement does not apply to an able-bodied adult with dependents who is the caretaker of a child under the age of six, or is enrolled at least half time in a school, training program, or institution of higher education.

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*Prepared by:* Andrea Brauer, Staff Attorney

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