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**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
AMENDMENT MEMO**

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**2009 Senate Bill 161**

**Senate  
Amendments 1 and 2**

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**Current Law**

The Department of Health Services (DHS) administers income maintenance programs, as well as the programs that provide state supplemental payments to persons receiving federal supplemental income. The income maintenance programs are specified in the statutes as the Medicaid Assistance program, and include BadgerCare Plus; the food stamp program; and the program that pays funeral, burial, and cemetery expenses for persons whose estates are insufficient to pay those expenses. Generally, income maintenance and state supplemental payment programs are administered by counties through contracts with DHS.

This bill requires DHS to establish a Milwaukee County enrollment services unit (unit) in DHS to determine eligibility for and administer income maintenance and state supplemental programs in Milwaukee County. In addition to other provisions, the bill requires Milwaukee County to expend a certain specified amount for the operation of income maintenance programs in the county and requires DHS to reimburse the county for all approved costs that exceed that amount for the operation for income maintenance and state supplemental payment programs in the county. The original legislation specified that initially the amount of that county expenditure would be \$3,559,800.

***Senate Amendment 1*** deletes the total of \$3,559,800 and substitutes \$2,700,000.

Senate Bill 161 provides that after the dismissal of the litigation pending against the county and DHS officials, DHS and Milwaukee County must identify the standards required for county operation of the income maintenance programs and initiate discussions regarding who shall operate the income maintenance programs in the county in the future and how those programs will be operated.

***Senate Amendment 2*** provides that the discussions must be commenced ***within six months*** after dismissal of the litigation.

**Legislative History**

Senate Bill 161 was introduced on April 8, 2009 by Senator Taylor and others; cosponsored by Representative Grigsby and others. The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs and a public hearing was held before that committee on April 14, 2009. In an executive session held on April 22, 2009, the committee recommended passage of the bill on a vote of Ayes, 3; Noes, 2.

The Senate, on April 28, 2009, adopted Senate Amendments 1 and 2 on voice votes. The Senate voted to recommend passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 18; Noes, 15.

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