



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2017 Assembly Bill 242**

**Assembly Amendment 2**

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### CURRENT LAW

Under current law, an applicant for certain aid programs is required to complete a drug screening questionnaire. The programs to which this applies include Wisconsin Works (W-2) services for noncustodial parents, the Transform Milwaukee and Transitional Jobs program, and the Children First program for parents who fail to pay child support.

If the screening results in a reasonable suspicion of drug abuse, the person must be tested. If the drug test result is positive, the person must participate in treatment or is ineligible for the aid program.

### 2017 ASSEMBLY BILL 242

2017 Assembly Bill 242 adds the W-2 employment positions to the programs that are subject to the drug screening and testing requirements. The W-2 employment positions include the trial employment match program (TEMP), community service job program, and the transitional placement program.

The bill also specifies certain persons who are subject to, or exempt from, the screening and testing requirement. For exemptions, the bill specifies that the screening and testing requirement does not apply to a person who is a custodial parent of a newborn up to eight weeks old, a woman with an at-risk pregnancy, a dependent child, or a person who is receiving only follow-up services. The bill adds the screening and testing requirement to apply to any other adult in the household whose income and assets are considered in determining eligibility, unless the other adult is the custodial parent of a newborn up to eight weeks old, is a woman with an at-risk pregnancy, or is specified as exempt by rule.

If a person is in a community service job or the transitional placement program, the bill specifies that, rather than being ineligible to participate in the program if the person or other adult member of the household refuses treatment, the person's monthly grant amount must be reduced to be used exclusively for the benefit of the person's dependent children, and be paid through a payee.

Lastly, the bill revises the terminology regarding a "screening questionnaire" to instead refer to a "screening."

## **ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 2**

Assembly Amendment 2 to Assembly Bill 242 revises the grant reduction provision for a person in a community service job or the transitional placement program. The amendment specifies that in addition to using the reduced grant exclusively for the benefit of the person's dependent children, the reduced grant may be used for the benefit of other dependent children in the person's household, including a dependent child's dependent children and a spouse or coparent's dependent children.

## **BILL HISTORY**

Representative Horlacher offered Assembly Amendment 2 to Assembly Bill 242 on April 20, 2017. That same day, the Assembly Committee on Public Benefit Reform voted to recommend adoption of Assembly Amendment 2 on a vote of Ayes, 8; Noes, 0; and voted to recommend adoption of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 3.

On May 10, 2017, the Assembly adopted Assembly Amendment 2 on a voice vote, and passed the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 62; Noes, 35.

MSK:jal