



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4398/1
SWB&TJD:wlj

2015 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 102

February 11, 2016 – Introduced by Senators DARLING, HARS DORF, LASSA and G UDEX, cosponsored by Representatives VOS, VORPAGEL, BRANDTJEN, BERCEAU, CZAJA, R. BROOKS, DUCHOW, GANNON, KREMER, KRUG, LOUDENBECK, RODRIGUEZ, ROHRKASTE, SCHRAA, TITTL and BALLWEG. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** requesting the department of health services and the department of
2 children and families to seek waiver approval to create a sliding scale for
3 eligibility for public benefit programs.

4 Whereas, programs administered by the department of health services or the
5 department of children and families under which the department of health services
6 or the department of children and families provides services, benefits, or other
7 assistance to individuals or families have eligibility parameters that may currently
8 create a disincentive for participants to accept certain wage increases or job
9 promotions due to the potential loss of benefits without sufficient income to replace
10 these benefits; and

11 Whereas, there exists under the current structure of public benefits a “fiscal
12 cliff” in which, for example, an employee might turn down a job promotion with a
13 small hourly pay increase because the small pay increase might cause the employee’s
14 income to be outside the income eligibility thresholds such that the employee could

1 lose all childcare subsidies or other public benefits at once and, as a result, be
2 economically worse off; and

3 Whereas, the department of health services and the department of children and
4 families have limited flexibility under current program structures to alleviate or
5 mitigate the effects of this fiscal cliff; and

6 Whereas, the federal government could approve waiver requests from the
7 department of health services and the department of children and families
8 authorizing these agencies to create a sliding scale that mitigates the effects of the
9 existing fiscal cliff by taking into account a person's income and other factors
10 regarding a person's eligibility for public benefit programs and establishing
11 appropriate levels of contributions and benefits for participants based on those
12 factors; now, therefore, be it

13 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the members of the
14 Wisconsin legislature request the department of health services and the department
15 of children and families to seek waiver approval from the federal government to
16 create a sliding scale that mitigates the effects of the existing fiscal cliff by taking into
17 account a person's income and other factors regarding a person's eligibility for public
18 benefit programs and establishing appropriate levels of contributions and benefits
19 for participants based on those factors; and, be it further

20 ***Resolved, That*** the senate chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
21 resolution to the secretary of health services and the secretary of children and
22 families.

23

(END)