1997 ASSEMBLY BILL 475

August 14, 1997 – Introduced by Representatives NOTESTEIN, RILEY, KRUG, R. YOUNG, J. LEHMAN, KREUSER, LA FAVE, BOCK, L. YOUNG, PLOUFF, BOYLE and BALDWIN, cosponsored by Senators GEORGE, ROSENZWEIG, DECKER, WIRCH and PLACHE. Referred to Committee on Wisconsin Works Oversight.

1   AN ACT *to amend* 49.124 (1m) (a); and *to create* 49.124 (1m) (br) of the statutes;

2   **relating to:** federal waivers under the food stamp program.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the department of workforce development (DWD) administers the food stamp employment and training program. Currently, with certain exceptions, DWD may require able individuals who are between the ages of 18 and 60 years to participate in the employment and training program as a condition of receiving food stamps.

Currently, under federal law, an individual between the ages of 18 and 50 years, with certain exceptions, is ineligible to participate in the food stamp program if, in the previous 36–month period, the individual received food stamp benefits for at least 3 months during which the individual failed to meet minimum work requirements. Federal law permits a state to request from the secretary of the federal department of agriculture a waiver from those minimum work requirements for any group of individuals who reside in an area that has an unemployment rate of over 10% or that does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.

This bill requires DWD to request that waiver from the secretary of the federal department of agriculture. Under the bill, if the waiver is granted and in effect, DWD may not require an individual who resides in an area that has an unemployment rate of over 10% or that does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individual to participate in the food stamp employment and training program.

For further information see the ***state and local*** fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1   SECTION 1. 49.124 (1m) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

2   49.124 **(1m)** (a) The department shall administer an employment and training

3   program for recipients under the food stamp program. The department may contract

4   with a Wisconsin works agency to administer the employment and training program

5   under this section. Except as provided in pars. (b) ~~and,~~ (bm) and (br), the department

6   may require able individuals who are 18 to 60 years of age who are not participants

7   in a Wisconsin works employment position, as defined in s. 49.141 (1) (r), to

8   participate in the employment and training program under this section. To the

9   extent permitted by federal law or waiver, and except as provided in par. (cm), the

10   department may distribute food stamp benefits on a pay–for–performance basis, as

11   determined under par. (c). The maximum number of hours an individual may be

12   required to work may not exceed 40 hours per week.

13   SECTION 2. 49.124 (1m) (br) of the statutes is created to read:

14   49.124 **(1m)** (br) 1. In this paragraph, "area" means a county or combination

15   of counties; a city; a village; a town; a smaller geographic region of a county, city,

16   village or town; or a federally recognized American Indian reservation.

17   2. The department shall request a waiver from the secretary of the federal

18   department of agriculture to permit the department to waive the work requirement

19   under par. (a) for any group of individuals, to the extent permitted under federal law,

20   for whom any of the following is true:

1   a. The group resides in an area determined by the department to have an

2   unemployment rate of over 10%.

3   b. The group resides in an area that the department determines does not have

4   a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for that group of individuals.

5   3. If the waiver under subd. 2. is granted and in effect, the department shall

6   implement the waiver.

7   **(END)**