



1997 SENATE BILL 255

July 3, 1997 - Introduced by Senators GEORGE, WIRCH, WINEKE, JAUCH, PLACHE, DECKER and ROSENZWEIG, cosponsored by Representatives NOTESTEIN, RILEY, LA FAVE, BOYLE, R. YOUNG, L. YOUNG, KREUSER and WILLIAMS. Referred to Committee on Labor, Transportation and Financial Institutions.

- 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 industry, labor and job development (DILJD) administers the food stamp employment and training program. Currently, with certain exceptions, DILJD 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 DILJD to request that waiver from the secretary of the federal department of agriculture. Under the bill, if the waiver is granted and in effect, DILJD 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.

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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:

