



State of Wisconsin
2011 - 2012 LEGISLATURE



LRB-3630/1
TJD:kjf:jf

2011 SENATE BILL 351

December 27, 2011 - Introduced by Senators VINEHOUT, TAYLOR, HANSEN, LASSA, C. LARSON, S. COGGS and WIRCH, cosponsored by Representatives MASON, GRIGSBY, RINGHAND, C. TAYLOR, MOLEPSKE JR, BERCEAU, BERNARD SCHABER, POCAN, BEWLEY, TOLES and TURNER. Referred to Committee on Health.

- 1 **AN ACT to amend** 49.45 (2m) (e) 2. of the statutes; **relating to:** changing the
2 deadline for approval of a certain federal law waiver request affecting the
3 Medical Assistance program.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the Department of Health Services (DHS) administers the Medical Assistance (MA) program, which is a joint federal and state program that pays for health services and long-term care to individuals who have limited resources. In some instances, the current MA program allows individuals who have income levels over 133 percent of the federal poverty line to receive benefits under the program. Current law requires DHS to request a waiver from the federal government to allow the department to implement eligibility standards, methodologies, and procedures under the state MA plan or federal Medicaid law waivers that are more restrictive than those in place on March 23, 2010. If the federal government does not approve the waiver request before December 31, 2011, DHS must reduce, on July 1, 2012, following the procedures under federal law, income eligibility levels to 133 percent of the federal poverty line for adults who are not pregnant or disabled for the purposes of determining eligibility to the extent permitted under federal law. The bill changes the deadline for federal government approval of the waiver request to March 1, 2012.

