

1999 ASSEMBLY BILL 5

January 14, 1999 – Introduced by Representatives SCHNEIDER, BOCK, BLACK, J. LEHMAN, MUSSER, MILLER, BOYLE, RILEY, BERCEAU, LASSA and RYBA, cosponsored by Senators DECKER and GEORGE. Referred to Committee on Children and Families.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 49.147 (4) (a) and 49.147 (4) (b) 1. (intro.); and **to create** 49.147
 2 (4) (b) 1t. of the statutes; **relating to:** technical college education under
 3 Wisconsin works and granting rule-making authority.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, with certain exceptions, a participant placed in a community service job under the Wisconsin works (W-2) program may be required to work in that job for not more than 30 hours per week and may be required to participate in education and training activities for not more than ten hours per week.

Currently, federal law requires states to achieve certain work participation rates for recipients of aid funded under the temporary assistance for needy families block grant, commonly referred to as TANF. In determining whether a state has met the minimum work participation rates, federal law permits states to include a limited percentage of persons who are engaged in vocational educational training (for not more than 12 months with respect to any individual) or who are attending secondary school.

This bill permits, to the extent permitted under federal law, participants in community service jobs to satisfy the hours-of-participation requirement by participating in a self-initiated technical college program if the W-2 agency determines that the participant is likely to complete the program within a 12-month period, that the participant is participating satisfactorily in the program and that the program is likely to lead to employment.

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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.** 49.147 (4) (a) of the statutes, as affected by 1997 Wisconsin Act 27,
2 is amended to read:

3 49.147 (4) (a) *Administration.* A Wisconsin works agency shall administer a
4 community service job program as part of its administration of Wisconsin works to
5 improve the employability of an individual who is not otherwise able to obtain
6 sufficient employment, as determined by the Wisconsin works agency, by providing
7 work experience and, training and education, if necessary, to assist the individual to
8 move promptly into unsubsidized public or private employment or a trial job. In
9 determining an appropriate placement for a participant, a Wisconsin works agency
10 shall give placement under this subsection priority over a placement under sub. (5).
11 Community service jobs shall be limited to projects that the department determines
12 would serve a useful public purpose ~~or, including self-initiated technical college~~
13 programs under par. (b) 1t. and projects the cost of which is partially or wholly offset
14 by revenue generated by the projects. After every 6 months of an individual's
15 participation under this subsection and at the conclusion of each assignment under
16 this subsection, a Wisconsin works agency shall reassess the individual's
17 employability.

18 **SECTION 2.** 49.147 (4) (b) 1. (intro.) of the statutes, as affected by 1997
19 Wisconsin Act 27, is amended to read:

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1 49.147 (4) (b) 1. ‘Required hours.’ (intro.) Except as provided in ~~subd.~~ subds.
2 1m. and 1t., a participant under this paragraph may be required to participate in any
3 of the following:

4 **SECTION 3.** 49.147 (4) (b) 1t. of the statutes is created to read:

5 49.147 (4) (b) 1t. ‘Technical college education.’ To the extent permitted under
6 42 USC 607 (c) (2) (D), a Wisconsin works agency shall permit a participant under
7 this paragraph to satisfy the hours-of-participation requirement under this
8 paragraph, in whole or in part, through participation in a self-initiated technical
9 college program if the Wisconsin works agency determines that the participant is
10 likely to complete the technical college program within a 12-month period, that the
11 participant is participating satisfactorily in the technical college program and that
12 the technical college program is likely to lead to employment. A Wisconsin works
13 agency may not require a participant under this subdivision to participate in a
14 community service job in excess of the number of hours equal to the difference
15 between 40 hours per week and the number of hours that the participant spends in
16 the technical college program per week. The Wisconsin works agency shall calculate
17 the number of hours spent in the technical college program per week by adding 2
18 hours to each hour that the participant spends in the classroom per week. The
19 department shall define by rule satisfactory participation in a technical college
20 program.

21 **SECTION 4. Effective date.**

22 (1) This act takes effect on February 1, 1999, or on the day after publication,
23 whichever is later.

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(END)