

1999 SENATE BILL 37

February 10, 1999 – Introduced by Senators GEORGE, MOORE, DARLING, JAUCH, RISSER, ERPENBACH and ROSENZWEIG, cosponsored by Representatives BLACK, YOUNG, POCAN, ALBERS, LA FAVE, GRONEMUS, J. LEHMAN, RILEY and MORRIS-TATUM. Referred to Committee on Human Services and Aging.

- 1 **AN ACT to create** 49.124 (1m) (br) of the statutes; **relating to:** federal waivers
2 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 three 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.

