

1999 SENATE BILL 353

February 1, 2000 – Introduced by Senators GEORGE, MOORE, BURKE, BAUMGART, ROBSON, PLACHE, GROBSCHMIDT, WIRCH and ROSENZWEIG, cosponsored by Representatives YOUNG, BOCK, LA FAVE, RYBA, STASKUNAS, RILEY, TURNER, BLACK, HAHN, PLOUFFE, SINICKI, RICHARDS, KREUSER, HASENOHRL, J. LEHMAN and BERCEAU. Referred to Committee on Human Services and Aging.

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 20.435 (3) (fp) and 46.766 of the statutes; **relating to:** funding
 2 for food pantries, granting rule-making authority and making an
 3 appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the department of health and family services (DHFS) to award annual grants to food pantries that meet certain conditions. Twenty-five percent of the total amount appropriated for the grants is to be distributed to qualified rural food pantries in proportion to the number of persons served by each of those food pantries. The remainder is to be distributed among qualified food pantries statewide, also in proportion to the number of persons served by each food pantry. No grant, however, may exceed \$15,000. Each food pantry may use the grant to purchase, store and distribute food to needy households, to purchase equipment, for various hunger prevention programs and for the general operations of the food pantry. The bill also directs DHFS to convene an advisory committee composed of representatives of various hunger prevention organizations and fields prior to promulgating any rules needed to implement the grant 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:

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1 3. The purchase of capital equipment.

2 4. Programs designed to increase food availability to needy households or
3 enhance food security.

4 5. Nutrition education and outreach.

5 6. Technical assistance related to food pantry management.

6 (c) No grant received under this section may be used to foster or advance
7 religious or political views.

8 **(2)** A food pantry qualifies for a grant under this section if the food pantry meets
9 all of the following conditions:

10 (a) The food pantry applies on an application developed by the department. The
11 application may not exceed one page.

12 (b) The food pantry is a nonprofit organization or is affiliated with a nonprofit
13 organization.

14 (c) The food pantry distributes food packages directly, without charge, to needy
15 households.

16 (d) The food pantry is open to the general public in its service area.

17 (e) The food pantry does not base food distribution on any criteria other than
18 need of the recipient, except to the extent necessary for the orderly and fair
19 distribution of food.

20 (f) The food pantry has a permanent address, regular hours of operation and
21 is open at least one day per month.

22 (g) The food pantry adheres to the United States department of agriculture food
23 safety and food storage standards.

24 **(3)** (a) The department shall allocate 25% of the total funds available for grants
25 under this section to be distributed, except as provided in sub. (1) (b), among rural

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1 food pantries that apply and are eligible in proportion to the number of persons
2 served by each of those food pantries. Except as provided in sub. (2) (b), the
3 department shall distribute the remainder of the grants to all food pantries that
4 apply and are qualified in proportion to the number of persons served by each food
5 pantry.

6 (b) If any funds remain unallocated, the department shall distribute the
7 remaining funds to food pantries that have not received the maximum amount, in
8 proportion to the number of persons served by each of those food pantries, but not
9 to exceed \$15,000.

10 (c) The department may not use more than 5% of the total amount available
11 under the appropriation under s. 20.435 (3) (fp) for administration of the grant
12 program under this section.

13 (4) A food pantry that receives a grant under this section shall, not later than
14 60 days after the end of the grant period, submit a report, not longer than 3 pages,
15 to the department in the manner prescribed by the department by rule, that
16 describes how the grant money was used by the food pantry. The department shall
17 compile the reports and submit the compiled reports to the legislature under s.
18 13.172 (2).

19 **SECTION 4. Nonstatutory provisions.**

20 (1) **FOOD PANTRY GRANT RULES.** Not later than the first day of the 6th month
21 beginning after the effective date of this subsection, the department of health and
22 family services shall promulgate any rules necessary to implement the grant
23 program under section 46.766 of the statutes, as created by this act. Prior to
24 promulgating the rules, however, the department of health and family services shall

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1 convene a committee to advise the department regarding the department's proposed
2 rules. The committee shall be composed of all of the following:

- 3 (a) One representative of an emergency food provider.
- 4 (b) One representative of a food bank.
- 5 (c) One representative of a community action agency.
- 6 (d) One representative of a faith-based social services organization.
- 7 (e) One representative of the University of Wisconsin-Extension with
8 experience in hunger prevention policies.
- 9 (f) Two other persons with experience in hunger prevention and emergency food
10 distribution.

11 (END)