AN ACT to amend 49.138 (1m) (intro.) of the statutes; relating to: emergency assistance grants.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 49.138 (1m) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

49.138 (1m) (intro.) The department shall implement a program of emergency assistance to needy persons in cases of fire, flood, natural disaster, homelessness or impending homelessness, or energy crisis. The department shall establish the maximum amounts of aid to be granted, except for cases of energy crisis, per family member based on the funding available under s. 20.437 (2) (dz) and (md). The department need not establish the maximum amounts by rule under ch. 227. The department shall publish the maximum amounts and annual changes to it amounts in the Wisconsin administrative register if the department does not establish the maximum amounts by rule. Emergency assistance provided to needy persons under this section may only be provided to a needy person once in a 12-month period. Emergency assistance provided to needy persons under this section in cases of homelessness or impending homelessness may be used only to obtain or retain a permanent living accommodation. For the purposes of this section, a family is considered to be homeless, or to be facing impending homelessness, if any of the following applies:

SECTION 2. Initial applicability.

(1) This act first applies to determinations of aid payment amounts that are made on the effective date of this subsection.