AN ACT to create 49.82 (3) of the statutes; relating to: public assistance advisory committee.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Health Services, in consultation with the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Administration to create an advisory committee to review proposed legislation and proposed requests for approval from the federal government of changes to public assistance programs and to review performance data outcomes and costs of changes to public assistance programs after federal approval of changes to those programs. The bill specifies participants DHS must appoint to the advisory committee. The bill also requires that a state agency that administers a public assistance program to hold a public comment period before developing language for a proposal to waive federal law and to conduct no fewer than three public hearings on the proposed waiver before submitting to the federal government. The agency may not submit the request on the proposed waiver without prior approval of the proposed waiver request by the Joint Committee on Finance.

For further information see the state 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:
SECTION 1. 49.82 (3) of the statutes is created to read:

49.82 (3) PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The department of health services, in consultation with the department of children and families and the department of administration, shall create an advisory committee to review proposed legislation and proposed requests for approval from the federal government of changes to public assistance programs and to review performance data, outcomes, and costs of changes to public assistance programs after federal approval of changes to those programs.

(b) The department of health services shall appoint to the advisory committee under par. (a) participants in public assistance programs; representatives of advocacy groups, including groups that support the rights of individuals with physical and invisible disabilities; providers of services under public assistance programs; representatives of the state agencies that administer public assistance programs; members of the legislature, suggested by the majority and minority leaders of both houses of the legislature; and policy experts from organizations such as the University of Wisconsin’s Population Health Institute and Institute for Research on Policy.

(c) A state agency that administers a public assistance program that is the subject of a proposed waiver request to be submitted to the federal government shall, in collaboration with the advisory committee under par. (a), do all of the following:

1. Hold a public comment period lasting at least 30 days before the development of the waiver proposal language.

2. Conduct no fewer than 3 public hearings on the proposed waiver before the waiver is submitted to the federal government.
(d) No state agency may submit a request to waive federal law involving a public assistance program without approval of the proposed waiver request by the joint committee on finance.