AN ACT to create 49.45 (9r) (e) of the statutes; relating to: reimbursement of wheelchairs and power mobility devices for recipients of Medical Assistance who reside in a nursing home.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the Department of Health Services is required to promulgate rules that establish which medical supplies and equipment are covered by Medical Assistance and under what conditions they will be reimbursed. This bill establishes more circumstances under which DHS reimburses a provider for a complex rehabilitation technology prescribed for a recipient of Medical Assistance who resides in a nursing home. Specifically, the bill requires DHS to reimburse a provider for complex rehabilitation technology that is provided to a recipient of Medical Assistance who is a resident of a nursing home when the complex rehabilitation technology will do any of the following:

1. Contribute to the recipient’s independent completion of activities of daily living.
2. Support the recipient’s vocational, occupational, and psychosocial activities.
3. Provide the recipient the independent ability to move about the nursing home, or to attain or retain self-care.
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. 49.45 (9r) (e) of the statutes is created to read:

49.45 (9r) (e) The department shall, consistent with this subsection and without imposing any additional requirements or restrictions under this subsection, reimburse a provider for a complex rehabilitation technology that is prescribed by a physician and used by a recipient of Medical Assistance who is a resident of a nursing home if the complex rehabilitation technology will do any of the following:

1. Contribute to the recipient’s independent completion of activities of daily living.

2. Support the recipient’s occupational, vocational, or psychosocial activities.

3. Provide the recipient the independent ability to move about the facility, or to attain or retain self-care.