



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-0417/P3
EHS:kjf:rs

DOA:.....Major, BB0108 - Limit on time in W-2 employment position

FOR 2015-2017 BUDGET -- NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

AN ACT ...; relating to: the budget.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WISCONSIN WORKS

The Wisconsin Works (W-2) program under current law, which is administered by DCF, provides work experience and benefits for low-income custodial parents who are at least 18 years old. Generally, under current law, to be eligible for a W-2 employment position and a job access loan, the total number of months in which an individual or an adult member of the individual's family has participated in or received benefits under certain W-2 programs may not exceed 60 months. A W-2 agency may extend this time limit if the agency determines that unusual circumstances exist that warrant an extension of the participation period.

Under this bill, the time limit on participating in or receiving benefits under these W-2 programs is 48 months. The bill allows a W-2 agency to extend this time limit if it determines that the individual is experiencing hardship or that the individual's family includes an individual who has been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty.

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. 49.145 (2) (n) 1. (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

49.145 (2) (n) 1. (intro.) Except as provided in subd. 4., beginning on the date on which the individual has attained the age of 18, the total number of months in which the individual or any adult member of the individual's Wisconsin ~~works~~ Works group has participated in, or has received benefits under, any of the following or any combination of the following does not exceed ~~60~~ 48 months, whether or not consecutive:

SECTION 2. 49.145 (2) (n) 1. a. of the statutes is amended to read:

49.145 (2) (n) 1. a. The job opportunities and basic skills program under s. 49.193, 1997 stats. Active participation on or after October 1, 1996, in the job opportunities and basic skills program counts toward the ~~60-month~~ 48-month limit.

SECTION 3. 49.145 (2) (n) 3. of the statutes is amended to read:

49.145 (2) (n) 3. A Wisconsin ~~works~~ Works agency may extend the time limit under this paragraph only if the Wisconsin ~~works~~ Works agency determines, in accordance with rules promulgated by the department, that ~~unusual circumstances exist that warrant an extension of the participation period~~ the individual is experiencing hardship or that the individual's family includes an individual who has been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty.

SECTION 9106. Nonstatutory provisions; Children and Families.

(1) WISCONSIN WORKS BENEFIT TIME LIMIT. When implementing the 48-month time limit under section 49.145 (2) (n) 1. (intro.) and a. and 3. of the statutes, as affected by this act, for an individual participating in Wisconsin Works on the effective date of this subsection, the department of children and families may allow the individual to continue to participate in some or all components of Wisconsin Works longer than the 48-month time limit for an appropriate amount of time

necessary to allow the individual to transition out of Wisconsin Works, as determined by the department of children and families.

(END)