



2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 188

April 22, 2015 – Introduced by Representatives JACQUE, KERKMAN, KREMER, ALLEN, BALLWEG, E. BROOKS, R. BROOKS, CRAIG, CZAJA, EDMING, GANNON, HEATON, HORLACHER, KLEEFISCH, KNODL, KNUDSON, KULP, T. LARSON, MURPHY, MURSAU, NEYLON, A. OTT, PETERSEN, QUINN, RIPP and STEFFEN, cosponsored by Senators COWLES, GUDEX and LASEE. Referred to Committee on Public Benefit Reform.

1 **AN ACT to create** 49.79 (11) of the statutes; **relating to:** removing FoodShare
2 benefits from an inactive account and expunging unused benefits after one
3 year.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

The federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known as FoodShare in Wisconsin and formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, provides benefits to eligible low-income households for the purchase of food. FoodShare is administered by the Department of Health Services (DHS). The state and the federal government share the cost of administration. Benefits, which are electronically debited to a Quest card, are paid entirely with federal funds. Any benefit amount that is not used in the month of receipt is carried over and may be used by the recipient for up to one year.

This bill requires DHS to remove and store offline all FoodShare benefits posted to a recipient's benefit account if the account has not been accessed in six months or longer. The benefits must be made available again to the recipient if the recipient requests them or reapplies for FoodShare benefits, whichever is appropriate under the circumstances. DHS must attempt to notify the recipient before removing the benefits and must describe how the benefits may be returned to the account. The bill also directs DHS to expunge any FoodShare benefits that have not been used after one year, regardless of whether the benefits are being stored offline or are posted to active accounts.

