

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 49.815 (intro.), and (1) (a), (b) 1., 2., 3., and 4., (2) and (3) of the
2 statutes; **relating to:** an electronic application and information system to determine
3 eligibility and register for public assistance programs.

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

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PREFATORY NOTE: This draft was prepared for the Joint Legislative Council’s Special Committee on Infant Mortality.

The Department of Health Services (DHS) currently administers an electronic application and information system (known as the “ACCESS” system), which enables a person to determine his or her eligibility and register for multiple public assistance programs, including BadgerCare Plus, the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, and FoodShare.

The draft directs DHS to pursue expansion of the ACCESS system in order to streamline access to eligible benefits, explore cost reductions, improve efficiency for all citizens of this state, collect statistics related to reducing infant mortality, and improve the health status of all citizens of this state, including birth outcomes. The system must include information regarding all programs designed to assist low-income persons, including housing assistance, rental assistance, and temporary child care assistance.

DHS must collaborate with appropriate state agencies to expand the ACCESS system. DHS must also develop a detailed plan within 12 months after the effective date of this bill that contains cost estimates and a proposed timeline for implementation of an expanded system.

The draft also requires DHS to pursue the development of a single statewide data management information system to facilitate the integration of health, public health, social, and economic assistance services provided to low-income persons in Wisconsin. This system would enable a person to register once for different public assistance programs and enable each program to have access to program recipients’ data so that it is not necessary to re-enter the same information multiple times, and would provide a single, automated care plan identifying a comprehensive array of service activities needed to address assessed risks for an individual. The plan would be based on the person’s

response to a standardized set of questions assessing prenatal or child health care, nutrition, child safety, and other human service needs. The system would also provide a scheduling or referral system which matches the person's service needs with available internal and external providers.

1 **SECTION 1.** 49.815 (intro.), and (1) (a), (b) 1., 2., 3., and 4., (2) and (3) of the statutes
2 are created to read:

3 **49.815** STATEWIDE DATA MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION SYSTEM. **(1)** In order to
4 streamline access to eligible benefits, explore cost reductions, improve efficiency for all
5 citizens of this state, collect statistics related to reducing infant mortality, and improve the
6 health status of all citizens of this state, including birth outcomes, the department shall pursue
7 all of the following:

8 (a) Expansion of the department's electronic application and information system that
9 enables a person to determine his or her eligibility for and to apply for or renew Medicaid
10 services and other public assistance benefits. The system shall include information regarding
11 all programs designed to assist low-income persons, including housing assistance, rental
12 assistance, and temporary child care assistance.

13 (b) Development and implementation of a statewide, electronic data management and
14 information system for public assistance programs that does all of the following:

15 1. Determines a person's eligibility for multiple public assistance programs by means
16 of a single registration or application.

17 2. Allows public assistance program administrators to have access to public assistance
18 program recipients' data previously captured by other programs.

19 3. Provides a single, automated care plan identifying a comprehensive array of service
20 activities needed to address assessed risks for a person.

1 4. Provides a scheduling or referral system which matches a person's service needs with
2 available health care, public assistance, or economic assistance providers.

3 (2) The department shall develop a detailed plan for implementation of an expanded
4 system under sub. (1) (a) within 12 months after the effective date of this subsection [LRB
5 inserts date]. The plan shall contain cost estimates and a proposed timeline for
6 implementation.

7 (3) The department shall collaborate with appropriate state agencies to expand the
8 system under sub. (1) (a) and to develop and implement the system under sub. (1) (b). State
9 agencies shall cooperate with the department on these projects.

NOTE: Directs DHS to pursue the expansion of its electronic application and information system (known as the "ACCESS" system), which currently enables a person to determine his or her eligibility and register for multiple public assistance programs, including BadgerCare Plus, WIC, and FoodShare, and to receive information about other forms of assistance including housing assistance, rental assistance, and temporary child care assistance. Also, requires DHS to pursue the development of a single statewide data management information system to facilitate the integration of health, public health, social, and economic assistance services provided to low-income persons in Wisconsin.

Requires DHS to collaborate with appropriate state agencies to expand the ACCESS system and develop and implement a single statewide data management system. Other state agencies must cooperate with DHS on these projects.

Requires DHS to develop a detailed plan within 12 months after the bill's effective date that contains cost estimates and a proposed timeline for implementing an expanded ACCESS system.