

State of Misconsin 2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4127/1 TJD:ahe

2017 ASSEMBLY BILL 530

October 10, 2017 - Introduced by Representatives Pronschinske, R. Brooks, Horlacher, Kitchens, Knodl, Kremer, Steffen, Tittl and Tusler, cosponsored by Senator Stroebel. Referred to Committee on Public Benefit Reform.

AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

AN ACT to create 49.79 (7m) and 227.01 (13) (tm) of the statutes; relating to:

nutritional food pilot program under FoodShare and providing an exemption
from rule-making procedures.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Health Services to develop, after consulting with stakeholders, and conduct a pilot program to use FoodShare benefits for foods, food products, and beverages that have sufficient nutritional value. FoodShare, also known as the food stamp program and the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, provides benefits to eligible low-income households for the purchase of food. FoodShare benefits are paid by the federal government while the state and federal government share the cost of administration. Under the bill's pilot program, DHS must identify categories of or specific foods, food products, and beverages that do not have sufficient nutritional value and restrict the use of FoodShare benefits for those foods, food products, and beverages. DHS must request a waiver of federal law, if it determines one is needed, and may not implement the pilot program unless the waiver is granted.

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:

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49.79 (7m) Nutritional food pilot program. (a) Subject to par. (b), the department shall develop, after consultation with interested parties including food producers and sellers and health-related organizations, and conduct a pilot program for food stamp program benefits to be used for foods, food products, and beverages that have sufficient nutritional value. Under the pilot program, the department shall identify specific foods, food products, and beverages, or general categories of foods, food products, and beverages, that do not have sufficient nutritional value and shall restrict the use of benefits under the pilot program for those foods, food products, and beverages.

(b) If the department determines that it may not implement the pilot program under par. (a) without a waiver of federal law, the department shall request a waiver from the U.S. department of agriculture and may not implement the pilot program under par. (a) unless the waiver is granted and in effect.

Section 2. 227.01 (13) (tm) of the statutes is created to read:

227.01 (13) (tm) Relates to a pilot program under s. 49.79 (7m).

17 (END)