



**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
AMENDMENT MEMO**

2015 Assembly Bill 177

**Assembly Amendments 2, 4, 5,
7, and 17; and Assembly
Amendment 1 to Assembly
Amendment 7**

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2015 Assembly Bill 177 relates to limiting the foods that may be purchased under FoodShare (formerly, food stamps); requiring a report on the cost to implement and comply with the food limitations; and requiring review, updating, and publication of the list of authorized foods.

2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 177

Assembly Bill 177 specifies that 67% of benefits used by a FoodShare recipient each month must be used to purchase foods that are authorized for purchase in the special supplemental food program for women, infants, and children (commonly referred to as WIC), and to purchase beef, pork, chicken, fish, fresh produce, and white potatoes.

The bill also specifies that FoodShare benefits may not be used to purchase crab, lobster, shrimp, or any other shellfish.

In order to implement these provisions, the bill provides that the Department of Health Services may apply to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a waiver, if needed, and must reimburse retail and warehouse suppliers for initial implementation costs to comply with the purchase limitations.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENTS 2, 4, 5, 7, AND 17; AND ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1 TO ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 7

Assembly Amendments 2, 4, 5, 7, and 17 modify the list of permissible foods for which 67% of benefits must be used each month as follows:

- Assembly Amendment 2 adds cranberries, whether fresh, frozen, or canned.

- Assembly Amendment 4 removes the word “chicken” and instead allows “poultry.”
- Assembly Amendment 5 removes the limitation to “white” potatoes and instead allows any potatoes.
- Assembly Amendment 7, as amended by Assembly Amendment 1 to the amendment, specifies that items from the WIC-list are permissible regardless of brand, size, or packaging.
- Assembly Amendment 17 adds all types of dairy products.

BILL HISTORY

On May 6, 2015, the Assembly Committee on Public Benefit Reform recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 2 on a vote of Ayes, 13; Noes, 1. The committee recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Amendment 7, and recommended adoption of Assembly Amendments 4, 5, 7, as amended, and 17 on votes of Ayes, 14; Noes, 0. The committee recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 8; Noes, 6.

On May 13, 2015, the Assembly adopted each amendment by voice vote, and passed the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 60; Noes, 35.

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