



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2015 Assembly Bill 222

Assembly Amendment 1

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2015 Assembly Bill 222 relates to photo identification cards for FoodShare recipients. The FoodShare Wisconsin program was formerly referred to as food stamps, and is administered by the Department of Health Services (DHS).

2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 222

Assembly Bill 222 requires DHS to prepare and submit an implementation plan for approval by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) in order to allow a FoodShare recipient's electronic benefit transfer card to contain a photograph of the person. The bill specifies certain issues that must be addressed in the implementation plan, such as operational issues, outreach, and civil rights concerns.

The bill also requires DHS to prepare and submit a waiver request to FNS in order to allow a FoodShare recipient to be required to show the electronic benefit transfer card, containing a photograph, when making a purchase with the card.

If approval of the implementation plan and waiver is granted by FNS, in order to begin issuing photographic benefit cards and requiring that the cards be shown at the time of sale, the bill then requires approval by the Joint Committee on Finance for the implementation plan, the waiver request, and any necessary appropriation.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 removes all provisions related to the submission of a waiver request for allowing a FoodShare recipient to be required to show an electronic benefit transfer card, containing a photograph, when making a purchase.

BILL HISTORY

On September 15, 2015, the Assembly Committee on Public Benefit Reform recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 13; Noes, 1. The committee recommended adoption of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 8; Noes, 6.

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