



2015 SENATE BILL 402

December 3, 2015 - Introduced by Senators ROTH, OLSEN, BEWLEY, LASSA and STROEBEL, cosponsored by Representatives ROHRKASTE, NOVAK, BALLWEG, BERNIER, R. BROOKS, JACQUE, KOLSTE, KREMER, MURPHY, A. OTT, PETRYK, RIPP, STEFFEN, SUBECK, TAUCHEN, C. TAYLOR, VANDERMEER and KOOYENGA. Referred to Committee on Workforce Development, Public Works, and Military Affairs.

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 253.065 and 448.78 (4) (d) of the statutes; **relating to:**
2 establishment of a dietetic internship program and granting rule-making
3 authority.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill establishes a dietetic internship program under the state supplemental food program for women, infants, and children (WIC) through which qualified nutritionists working for the Department of Health Services (DHS) or a WIC local agency may obtain experience that qualifies as dietetics practice required to become registered dietitian nutritionists.

Under current law, an individual seeking certification as a dietitian in this state must meet certain requirements, including the completion of at least 900 hours of supervised dietetics practice. Under the bill, a nutritionist who is employed by DHS or a WIC local agency as part of the WIC program and who has met the educational requirements for certification may be eligible to apply for an internship in the dietetic internship program. The bill requires DHS to issue to each individual who successfully completes the dietetic internship program a certificate of completion that the individual may submit, and the Dietitians Affiliated Credentialing Board must accept, as proof of completion of dietetics practice requirement for dietitian certification. An individual must agree to work at least 24 months for the WIC program upon completion of the internship program. The bill requires DHS to ensure that the internship program meets the standards for accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). DHS must

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seek ACEND accreditation and may not begin accepting applicants for the internship program until the accreditation is granted. If DHS determines that a federal waiver is required, DHS must request a waiver from the federal Department of Agriculture (USDA) and may then implement the program if the USDA approves the waiver. Subject to the accreditation requirement, DHS, through the WIC program, may sponsor the number of interns per year determined by DHS, beginning in September 2017.

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:

1 **SECTION 1.** 253.065 of the statutes is created to read:

2 **253.065 Dietetic internship program. (1)** The department shall establish
3 a dietetic internship program to be sponsored and overseen as part of the state
4 supplemental food program for women, infants, and children under s. 253.06. If the
5 department determines that it may not implement or fund the program without a
6 federal waiver, the department shall, no later than 6 months after the effective date
7 of this subsection [LRB inserts date], request a waiver from the secretary of the
8 federal department of agriculture. If a federal waiver is required, the department
9 shall implement the program if the federal department of agriculture approves the
10 waiver request.

11 **(2)** Subject to sub. (8), the department, through the state supplemental food
12 program for women, infants, and children under s. 253.06, may sponsor the number
13 of interns per year determined by the department, beginning with a first class of
14 interns in September 2017.

15 **(3)** Unless the department grants an exception, in order to be eligible for the
16 internship program under sub. (1), an applicant must, at the time of his or her
17 selection, be employed as a nutritionist for the state supplemental food program for

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1 women, infants, and children under s. 253.06 by either the department or a local
2 agency and have met the educational requirements under s. 448.78 (3).

3 (4) The department or local agency shall continue to pay an employee who
4 participates in the internship program his or her salary for noninternship-related
5 work hours from the state supplemental food program for women, infants, and
6 children under s. 253.06 (2) as funded from the appropriation under s. 20.435 (1)
7 (em). The department or local agency may pay an employee who participates in the
8 internship program his or her salary for internship-related work hours from the
9 state supplemental food program for women, infants, and children under s. 253.06
10 (2) as funded from the appropriation under s. 20.435 (1) (em).

11 (5) The department shall issue to each individual who successfully completes
12 the dietetic internship program under this section a certificate of completion that the
13 individual may submit as verification of the completion of more than 900 hours of
14 qualifying dietetics practice under s. 448.78 (4). The dietitians affiliated
15 credentialing board shall accept certificates of completion issued under this
16 subsection as satisfactory evidence under s. 448.78 (4).

17 (6) Each participant in the internship program shall, upon successful
18 completion of his or her internship, agree to work at least 24 months for the state
19 supplemental food program for women, infants, and children under s. 253.06. If the
20 participant terminates his or her employment with the state supplemental food
21 program for women, infants, and children before completing his or her obligated time
22 under this subsection, or fails to take the dietetic registration examination within
23 one year of internship completion, the participant must reimburse the department
24 or a local agency for any incurred costs associated with his or her participation in the
25 internship, including any income paid for internship-related work.

