

**State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development**

**DWD 14.24  
Stale Electronic Food Stamp Accounts**

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development proposes an order to repeal s. DWD 14.24, relating to stale electronic food stamp accounts.

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**Analysis Prepared by the Department of Workforce Development**

**Statutory authority:** Sections 49.129(7) and 227.11(2), Stats.  
**Statute interpreted:** Section 49.129, Stats.  
**Relevant federal law:** 7 CFR 274.12(f)(7)

The proposed rule repeals the existing s. DWD 14.24, which allows the department to deactivate electronic food stamp accounts that have not been accessed for 3 months or longer. After deactivation, the benefits are made available to the food stamp group if they reapply for food stamps or contact the local economic support agency.

DWD 14.24 was adopted in September 1999 when the department implemented the electronic delivery of benefits under the federal food stamp program. The policy of deactivating accounts that have not been accessed for 3 months was intended to ensure contact with food stamp recipients who are not using their benefit cards. Under federal food stamp regulations at 7 CFR 274.12(f)(7)(i), adoption of this policy is optional.

Based on feedback from local agencies, client advocates, and others, the department is now concerned that the process by which accounts are deactivated and then need to be reactivated has the potential to serve as a barrier to participation, particularly among the elderly and disabled. The department has decided that this potential outweighs any value the current policy may have in ensuring contact with recipients. The new policy will repeal the department's authority to deactivate accounts that have not been accessed for 3 months. The department will initiate other efforts to communicate with recipients who are not using their cards to discuss any concerns they may have.

DWD 14.25, which provides for expunging electronic food stamp accounts that have not been accessed for one year, is mandatory under federal food stamp regulations at 7 CFR 274.12(f)(7)(ii) and remains unchanged.

**Rule Text**

SECTION 1. DWD 14.24 is repealed.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This rule shall take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin administrative register as provided in s. 227.22 (2)(intro), Stats.