



2015 SENATE BILL 136

April 23, 2015 – Introduced by Senators TIFFANY, MARKLEIN and NASS, cosponsored by Representatives HEATON, JACQUE, HUTTON, R. BROOKS, KREMER, STEFFEN, NYGREN, GANNON, KULP, THIESFELDT, KNODL, KERKMAN, PETERSEN, MURPHY, CRAIG, KITCHENS, EDMING, HORLACHER and QUINN. Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services.

1 **AN ACT relating to:** a waiver to limit the number of FoodShare replacement
2 cards.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

The federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known as FoodShare in Wisconsin and formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, provides benefits to eligible low-income households for the purchase of food. FoodShare is administered by the Department of Health Services (DHS). The state and the federal government share the cost of administration. Benefits, which are electronically debited to a Quest card, are paid entirely with federal funds. Under federal regulations, there is no limit on the number of replacement cards that must be issued to a household for cards that are reported lost, stolen, or damaged. However, under the federal regulations, a state may opt to require a household member to contact the state agency to provide an explanation if the number of replacement cards requested reaches a threshold that is determined to be excessive. The threshold for an excessive number of replacement cards may not be less than four within a 12-month period. The household must be given notice that it has reached the threshold and that it must contact the state agency. If a household member does not contact the state agency, no replacement card is issued and the case is referred for investigation.

This bill directs DHS to request a waiver from the secretary of the federal Department of Agriculture, no later than six months after the bill goes into effect, to allow DHS to limit the number of replacement cards that it must issue in a 12-month period to a FoodShare recipient who reports that his or her Quest card has been lost, stolen, damaged, or destroyed to four replacement cards in a 12-month

