



**PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION**

1     **AN ACT** *to create* 49.79 (10) (c) of the statutes; **relating to:** prohibiting waiver  
2           of time limits on FoodShare benefits for not fulfilling work requirements.

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***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

Current law requires able-bodied adults without dependents to comply with certain work requirements to maintain FoodShare eligibility, and, if they do not comply or meet a specified exception, their eligibility for FoodShare is limited to three months during a three-year period. The Department of Health Services is currently waiving, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the time limits on benefits for failing to comply with the FoodShare work requirement. The FoodShare program, also known as the food stamp program and the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, provides financial assistance to individuals with limited financial resources for the purchase of food.

This bill prohibits the waiver or suspension of the time limits on eligibility for FoodShare for not fulfilling the work requirement except if the waiver or suspension is for a reason specified under a particular federal regulation. The current federal regulation allows states to waive the time limit if the area in which the individuals reside in the state has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent or if the area does not have sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals. The bill also requires DHS to withdraw its current waiver or suspension of the time limits but requires DHS to comply with the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act as related to the time limits. The FFCRA provides that, during the federally declared public health emergency related to the novel coronavirus outbreak, COVID-19, eligibility for SNAP may not be time limited unless an individual does

