

Sen. Jacque: Legislation to protect health care for disabled workers passes senate

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MADISON, WI... Bipartisan legislation authored by Senator André Jacque (New Franken) and Representative Robert Brooks (Saukville) to grant greater financial flexibility to disabled individuals who are working and receiving support through the Medical Assistance Purchase Plan (MAPP), Assembly Bill 253, unanimously passed the Senate on Tuesday and will now move to the desk of Governor Tony Evers.

Disabled adults in Wisconsin on Medicaid are supported in their workforce participation through enrollment in MAPP, a buy-in program open to individuals at or below 250% of the federal poverty level who have under \$15,000 in assets. Those using MAPP can open an Independence Account and deposit 50 percent of their gross work earnings to protect Medicaid coverage. AB 253 as amended would remove the cap on earnings that can be deposited for those qualified to participate in the program, and would also exempt up to \$40,000 in funds obtained as a result of an inheritance payment.

“Disabled individuals who want to work should not be penalized for attempting to improve their life circumstances,” said Jacque. “This legislation will encourage individuals with disabilities to live full, independent and productive lives, and I am pleased to see this effort to protect disabled Wisconsin workers on Medicaid advance.”

This legislation has the support of the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities and is a follow-up to previous legislation authored by Senator Jacque, removing a number of other disincentives to taking on expanded

work opportunities through the MAPP program.

AB 253 passed the State Assembly on a voice vote in January

Senator André Jacque represents Northeast Wisconsin's First Senate District, consisting of Door and Kewaunee Counties and portions of Brown, Calumet, Manitowoc, and Outagamie counties.