



Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

February 28, 2020

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

I am vetoing 2019 Assembly Bill 808 in its entirety.

The bill would prohibit a prosecutor from dismissing or amending a charge of illegally possessing a firearm or placing the individual in a deferred prosecution program if an individual has been previously convicted, or found not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect, of committing a violent crime, unless the dismissal or amending of the charge is approved by the court. The bill would further require the court to notify the Legislature if the court approves the dismissal or amending of a charge of illegally possessing a firearm.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to restricting the discretion of prosecutors and judges to address the alleged violation before them. I also object because the bill restricts the availability of deferred prosecution programs. As I have said, we need to be smarter on crime. Evidence suggests that diversion programs, including deferred prosecution programs, are more cost-effective and have better outcomes than traditional incarceration. I further object because the bill would create an administratively burdensome reporting requirement.

Respectively submitted,

Tony Evers
Governor