



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

March 29, 2021

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 183 in its entirety.

The bill provides a role for the Legislature in the expenditure of federal funds related to COVID-19 received by the state from the effective date of the bill until June 30, 2022. Specifically, the bill requires the Governor to submit a plan to the Joint Committee on Finance for any federal funds received by the state related to COVID-19 activities, subject to a 14-day passive review process.

I am vetoing the bill because it is critical to get the federal COVID-19 relief funds in the hands of Wisconsinites and businesses that need it as quickly as possible, and I have concerns that that the process outlined in the bill will prevent that from happening. Under the bill, any objection by any committee member could hold up funding for an indeterminate amount of time, as happens not infrequently under the current 14-day passive review process. This would unnecessarily delay the distribution of these funds, many of which have to be distributed according to federal law and using existing formulas.

In Wisconsin, the role of the Governor to oversee use of federal funds under Section 16.54 of the Wisconsin Statutes is clearly established and has been in place for decades, a fact that was confirmed by legislative leadership in a letter they sent to me in April 2020. At the same time, I understand the Legislature's desire to know how the funding is being distributed and I am committed to transparency about our effort to meet the needs of Wisconsin's citizens and businesses as quickly as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Evers
Governor