



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

March 31, 2022

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 117 in its entirety.

This bill would make multiple changes to the membership and duties of the police and fire commissions of the city of Milwaukee and the city of Madison. The bill would establish criteria for the selection of certain members of these commissions and mandates similarities between these two cities' commissions. The bill would also make changes to the disciplinary trial process.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to minimizing or restricting local control and undermining trust in local governance. For example, under this bill certain membership changes do not require candidates to reside within the boundaries of the impacted community. This would erode local control over these protective service departments. In addition, the bill requires the city of Milwaukee's commission to include a three-member panel evaluating a complaint against an officer or firefighter. Under this provision, that could include an individual who served with the individual under investigation or with the individual's cohort. This could unnecessarily undermine public and community trust in disciplinary decisions.

I am also vetoing the bill because it may interfere with progress already made in protective service oversight. The city of Madison recently completed an independent review of its police department and created the recommended Civilian Oversight Board and an Office of the Independent Monitor. The changes mandated by this bill could disrupt local efforts to improve governance that are already underway.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Evers'.

Tony Evers
Governor