



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

March 31, 2022

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 609 in its entirety.

This bill would require the Department of Natural Resources to produce and stock a minimum number of pheasants each year and to stock them on an established schedule. The department would also be required to produce a report identifying where pheasants would be stocked and a detailed plan for stocking those properties.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to the Legislature's failure to provide resources for the Department of Natural Resources to implement this new requirement. According to the fiscal estimate prepared by the Department of Natural Resources, stocking the number of pheasants required under this bill could cost over \$5.7 million in one-time startup costs and an additional \$1.5 million in ongoing annual costs. This is not feasible without providing additional budgetary and staff resources to the department, which are absent from this bill. Additionally, capital projects costing in excess of \$1,000,000 must be enumerated in the State Building Program. This bill does not provide an enumeration for a hatchery expansion at the State Game Farm, which would be necessary to comply with this bill. Finally, the Department of Natural Resources has a history of collaborating with stakeholders in order to make stocking decisions that are science-based, and which incorporate biological, social, and economic factors while ensuring habitat protection, among other considerations. This includes regular consultation the Wisconsin Conservation Congress as well as the Pheasant Advisory Committee, consisting of Department of Natural Resources experts as well as stakeholder group representatives who review and make recommendations on the management of pheasants in Wisconsin. This bill bypasses that informed process.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tony Evers".

Tony Evers
Governor