



Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

March 29, 2024

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 186 in its entirety.

This bill modifies the timeline for examination of commercial building plans by requiring the Department of Safety and Professional Services to allow building owners to schedule the next available plan examination appointment, by submitting complete plans to the department and paying all fees, or to schedule an appointment date in the future (a "schedule-in-advance" examination), by paying all fees and submitting the plans at least three business days before the appointment date. This bill also requires the department to allow building owners to identify any previously approved plans that are similar to the new plans submitted for examination and provides for potential refunds or partial refunds in the event of appointment cancellation. Finally, this bill creates exceptions for certain plumbing plan examinations based on the number of plumbing fixtures to be included in the building if plans are prepared by individuals holding certain credentials, including an architect or professional engineer, designer of plumbing systems, master plumber, restricted master plumber, and utility contractor.

I object to this bill because it may increase review times for commercial building plans by requiring two separate pathways for plan review with differing timelines while providing no additional resources or staffing to address the doubling of plan review processes. Under the bill, plan reviewers for schedule-in-advance examinations could receive plans only three business days prior to an examination appointment, which would require staff to be diverted from reviewing other plans to focus on performing evaluations of these plans. These plans may require additional information before being determined to be complete, and incomplete plan submissions may result in appointments being cancelled on short notice or appointments that result in a required second appointment once plans are complete. The current process includes a triage of submitted plans to determine completeness before scheduling appointments to ensure examination appointments are substantively useful.

Moreover, the department has demonstrated success in improving plan review timelines and efficiency using its current system. The Wisconsin State Legislature should allow the department to use its established expertise and experience in plan review to determine the scheduling system that maximizes the limited resources available to prevent project delays, especially insofar as the bill may increase such delays due to appointment cancellations or incomplete plan submissions. Further, if the Wisconsin State Legislature is serious about improving review times, I invite the Legislature to invest in the necessary staffing support to review plans.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Evers
Governor