



Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

March 29, 2024

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 187 in its entirety.

This bill would expand the scope of examinations of essential drawings, calculations, and specifications that must be accepted by the Department of Safety and Professional Services with respect to public buildings, public structures, and places of employment when such examinations are performed by local units of government that are not appointed agents of the department. This bill would also expand the scope of reviews and determinations for variances that must be accepted by the department with respect to such buildings when performed by non-agent local units of government. This bill further repeals the requirement that local units of government that are appointed agents of the department and second-class cities that are certified by the department forward a portion of plan review examination fees to the department. Finally, this bill requires the department to submit a plan to the Legislature, by January 1, 2025, that addresses how the department will encourage cities, villages, towns, and counties to conduct commercial plan examinations and inspections, and how the department will increase the support for such functions.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to the expansion of the approval authority granted to non-agent municipalities, which could put local plan reviewers and inspectors into situations where they feel pressured to choose between public safety or issuing a commercial building examination approval. I also cannot support increasing the burden on the department's already limited resources and staffing with unfunded mandates. The department has significantly improved plan review processes and timelines, and the Wisconsin State Legislature need not interfere with the department's successful efforts to efficiently and effectively improve its own operations.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Evers
Governor