



Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

October 31, 2025

To The Honorable Members of the Senate:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 25 in its entirety.

This bill would, unless there is new or unused evidence presented, prohibit a court from permitting the filing of a complaint, or issuing a complaint in a John Doe proceeding, against a law enforcement officer who is involved in an officer-involved death if the district attorney determines that there is no basis to prosecute the officer.

I appreciate that the bill's authors have attempted to adapt this proposal based on the objections in my veto message for 2023 Senate Bill 517, which would have similarly limited a court's authority to issue complaints and restricted John Doe proceedings. However, because the proposed changes do not overcome many of those previous objections and, unfortunately, raise new concerns beyond those I previously raised, I am vetoing this bill in its entirety.

I am vetoing this bill because I object to restricting a court's authority to issue criminal complaints in a process designed to hold individuals accountable. The bill would restrict the admissibility of certain types of evidence and impose a heightened evidentiary burden on the court to be able to issue a complaint against an officer involved in an officer-involved death. For example, under the bill, a judge may be prohibited from filing or issuing a complaint, even if the judge finds ample probable cause, solely because the judge is unable to identify any specific "new" or "unused" evidence.

I am also vetoing this bill because I object to legislation that is inconsistent with its purported intent. According to the authors, the bill is intended to prevent courts from conducting "repetitive" or "redundant" hearings where a district attorney has declined to issue a complaint. The bill, however, does not address the frequency of these hearings or their availability. Cumulatively, this bill would make it more difficult for crime victims and their families to exercise their rights and receive the justice to which they are constitutionally entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Tony Evers
Governor