



Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

October 31, 2025

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 146 in its entirety.

This bill amends current unemployment insurance (UI) statutes to require the Department of Workforce Development to allow employers a minimum of 12 business days to respond to an initial request for information about a UI benefit claim.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to changes that could delay the timely processing of unemployment insurance claims and potentially delay benefit payments to eligible workers and families. I also further object to this bill potentially creating conflict with existing federal practices and requirements. As the Department of Workforce Development has indicated, extending the response period for employers to 12 business days could prevent it from meeting federal timeliness metrics required by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Federal standards require the department to issue 87 percent of first benefit payments within 14 calendar days and to complete 80 percent of adjudications within 21 calendar days. Because 12 business days could be up to 18 calendar days, the bill's change would make it more difficult for the department to meet the federal benchmarks, potentially jeopardizing Wisconsin's eligibility for full federal administrative funding for the UI program, which serves as the department's primary source of funding for claim administration. The proposed statutory response period could therefore create unnecessary administrative delays, increase the risk of reduced federal funding, and limit the department's ability to process claims efficiently, particularly during periods in which claim volume is high. Under current law, the department already provides employers adequate time to respond to requests for information while ensuring that unemployment benefits are processed in a timely manner for eligible claimants.

I remain puzzled by the Legislature's persistent focus on changing and restricting economic assistance programs, particularly in the absence of any broader, substantive proposals to effectively and meaningfully address the generational workforce challenges that have plagued this state for a generation. The people of Wisconsin rightfully expect their legislators to prioritize pressing issues affecting every part of our state and to collaborate in developing meaningful solutions to address those challenges. I continue to welcome the Legislature's focus on real solutions that can help Wisconsin recruit, train, and retain talented workers and effectively compete to keep our homegrown talent.

Finally, as I have previously indicated to this Legislature, modifications proposed to the state's unemployment insurance law should be considered as part of the long-established process of review and recommendation by the Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council, or in consultation with the council and the department. This collaboration is designed to ensure that proposed



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modifications reflect the expertise and agreement of employers, workers, and the department, and I urge the Legislature to respect this important process and tradition.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Tony Evers
Governor