



Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

October 31, 2025

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 168 in its entirety.

This bill would make several modifications to the unemployment insurance (UI) laws, including: (a) changes requiring the Department of Workforce Development to implement certain identity verification processes; (b) extending the statute of limitations for prosecuting UI-related fraud, including with respect to benefits obtained under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act; (c) requiring the department to provide certain training for employers and claimants; (d) additional requirements for the department with respect to maintaining call center operations; (e) mandating the department to perform weekly state and national database tracking comparisons; and (f) requiring the department to make certain notifications in the event that it suspends or reduces fraud detection methods.

My position on these policies has not changed from the last time a similar proposal was sent to my desk. I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to creating additional barriers for individuals applying for and receiving benefits from a program that is designed to support people and families experiencing economic hardship, as well as creating additional mandates for the department in administering these benefits. The department already implements comprehensive fraud prevention strategies, including identity verification, making the proposal to mandate identity proofing both unnecessary and overly burdensome for claimants.

Further, the department currently offers education and resources not only to employers but also to individuals navigating the unemployment claims process. As such, the bill's requirements for training and informational materials are redundant. In addition, the bill includes new notification requirements that are unnecessary given the department's existing practices and would create added administrative complexity. This legislation would increase the department's workload without allocating any additional funding or support to manage these new duties.

Finally, 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. The process is intended to ensure that proposed modifications reflect the expertise and agreement of employers, workers, and the department.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Evers".

Tony Evers
Governor