



Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

March 20, 2026

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 415 in its entirety.

This bill would prohibit state agencies and other bodies in state government from using any electronic device that is owned, operated, or leased by the state agency or body to download, use, or access a web-based or social media application, channel or platform; or use any user-downloaded software, software application, or any generative artificial intelligence, that is owned or controlled by a foreign adversary, as defined by the bill. This bill would also require the Department of Administration to develop and publish policies and standards for officials, employees, and contractors of executive branch agencies and authorities regarding information technology owned or controlled by a foreign adversary. The policies and standards must address certain issues as described in the bill. The bill would also require the Legislative Technology Services Bureau and the Director of State Courts to develop and publish policies and standards regarding such technologies for the Legislature and the court system, respectively, and address the same issues the department is required to address in its policies and standards. The bill does not apply to law enforcement agencies utilizing prohibited technologies to carry out law enforcement duties. The bill's effective date would be January 31, 2027.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because Wisconsin state agencies are already doing similar work in pragmatic, reasonable ways that both protect state assets and resources and are consistent with best practices in information technology. For example, on January 11, 2023, I signed Executive Order #184, which prohibits the download or use of numerous foreign-owned technology applications, including TikTok, on electronic devices issued by executive branch agencies. This executive order directs the division to issue guidance and amend existing information technology policies and procedures to ensure compliance with my directive.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to the Legislature encroaching on the ability of the executive branch to develop, publish, and enforce information technology policies and standards for state agencies and authorities. The Division of Enterprise Technology within the department develops and publishes information technology standards and policies for state agencies, which are informed by governmental security and privacy recommendations issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The standards and policies issued by the division are regularly reviewed and revised to reflect emerging best practices to address cybersecurity threats.

I share the Legislature's concerns regarding cybersecurity threats facing state government. My previous two state budget proposals included nearly \$13 million in total funding for the department to enhance its cybersecurity efforts that would support state agencies and local units of government. Unfortunately on both occasions, Legislative Republicans refused to invest any funding into this



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critical initiative. I look forward to working with the Legislature on holistically addressing the digital threats facing state government that includes adequately funding critical cybersecurity initiatives spearheaded by the department.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Evers".

Tony Evers
Governor