



# Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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March 30, 2026

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am partially vetoing Assembly Bill 650.

This bill modifies an existing Department of Workforce Development appropriation related to unemployment insurance administration to allow funds currently used for controlled substance testing and treatment to also be used for claimant identity proofing when federal funding for that purpose is unavailable. The bill also increases funding for worker's compensation administration and requires certain insurance costs to be paid from the uninsured employers fund rather than the worker's compensation general fund.

I am partially vetoing this bill by removing the provisions of this bill that authorize the use of funds specifically for identity proofing, under s. 108.14 (10m), a reference to a statute which does not exist. While safeguarding the integrity of the unemployment insurance system is important, I object to including this restriction on funding purpose to activities under a non-existent statute. Further, current law already provides the department with tools to verify identity and prevent fraud, and the department conducts a variety of anti-fraud activities.

Through my veto, the department will have new flexibility to access state funding in an appropriation that purports to improve the unemployment insurance system by drug testing claimants; in fact, this funding has gone unspent for several years, and drug testing only serves to create barriers for claimants to access necessary benefits in times of economic hardship. My veto will allow the department to access a modest amount of state funds when the federal government fails to support state unemployment administration sufficiently.

By removing the identity proofing provisions, this partial veto preserves the bill's underlying appropriation structure while supporting unemployment insurance administration broadly.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Tony Evers  
Governor