



Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 3, 2026

To the Honorable Members of the Senate:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 300 in its entirety.

This bill would eliminate the 13-week time limit for garnishing wages of non-public employees. Under the bill, the garnishment would remain valid and effective until the judgment is satisfied unless terminated earlier by court order. The bill would require the creditor to mail certain documents to the debtor no later than the payday of the first pay period that the garnishment would apply, and every 180 days after that, until the earliest of the following: the judgment is satisfied, a court terminates the garnishment, or five years after the garnishment takes effect. The bill would also clarify the priority order for payments involved in a garnishment. The bill would also require the garnishee to verify and advise the creditor of the debtor's correct address and calculate whether and what the garnishee may pay the creditor after considering other debtor payments for support obligations or required by a restitution order.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to eliminating a key feature of garnishments—that they end. Limiting garnishments to 13 weeks creates a quarterly break where the parties can reevaluate the circumstances of the situation and reconsider their options. For example, creditors and debtors may negotiate an alternative payment plan, agree in writing to extend the garnishment for another 13 weeks, the debtor may exercise any statutory exemptions, and the creditor may elect to refile or not refile another garnishment. Unfortunately, the bill would eliminate many of the opportunities now available under current law for the parties to reach a potential resolution and unnecessarily foreclose remedy options for both parties.

I am also concerned that the bill's attempt to protect debtors by requiring that the creditor mail them limited documents only twice per year is insufficient in both substance and process. Current law requires the creditor to furnish documents to the debtor each time the creditor commences a new garnishment. Importantly, these documents include the garnishment form, which is issued by the circuit court. This bill eliminates the garnishment form from the list of documents creditors are required to mail to the debtor every 180 days following the first mailing. These insufficient protection efforts, combined with allowing garnishments to be in place until the debt is satisfied and requiring the garnishee to make payment calculations, would invite more opportunities for administrative errors that could be time-consuming and burdensome for the debtor to correct, allow creditors to escape responsibility for them, and expose employers and other garnishees to potential liability.

At a time when Wisconsinites are concerned about the cost of living and providing for themselves and their families, I encourage the Legislature to focus on solutions that will help the people of Wisconsin keep more of their hard-earned paychecks and have more room in their monthly household budgets.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Evers', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tony Evers
Governor