



Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 3, 2026

To the Honorable Members of the Senate:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 699 in its entirety.

This bill would modify the description of alternative methods for transporting pupils other than by school bus to increase the threshold number of passengers for both alternatives by five, so that more and larger vehicles may be considered as alternative methods to transport pupils. Specifically, under the bill, alternative methods would include a motor vehicle that transports 14 or fewer passengers, or a vehicle that transports 15 or more passengers, when, at the request of the school board or governing body of a private school, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation determines that an emergency exists because no regular pupil transportation is available.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to the Legislature enabling kids to travel in vehicles to or from school that are not recommended as safe for pupil transportation. More specifically, this bill would allow school districts and private schools to use larger vehicles to transport more students at a time, including vehicles that transport 15-passenger vans, even though the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration does not recommend those vehicles for transporting pupils.

Additionally, beyond potential student safety concerns, this bill could create confusion about applicable licensing and equipment requirements for different pupil transportation methods. Currently, individuals with a regular driver's license may operate a motor vehicle that falls under an alternative method of providing pupil transportation, while school bus drivers must hold a commercial driver's license with additional certifications. This bill would amend the definition of alternative methods of providing pupil transportation in a way that could create confusion about the difference between the definition of motor vehicles that can be used as an alternative method of transportation and existing statutory definitions relating to school buses, and therefore, which licensing and equipment requirements apply.

I cannot support efforts that could reduce kids' safety and security while riding in school vehicles, and I cannot support the Legislature's decision to ignore basic recommendations of the federal agency charged with saving lives, preventing injuries, and reducing costs caused by road traffic crashes on our roadways.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Tony Evers
Governor

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