



Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 3, 2026

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 167 in its entirety.

This bill would make several modifications to the unemployment insurance laws. Most significantly, the bill broadens the definition of "misconduct," and further applies the revised definition to worker's compensation law relating to temporary disability.

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 Wisconsinites and their families during times of economic uncertainty and need, as well as creating additional mandates for the department in administering these benefits. Further, as members of the Legislature should know full well, the department already has substantial eligibility requirements and fraud prevention mechanisms in place that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and prevent payment errors. Additionally, the bill's expansion of the definition of "misconduct" in state statutes could jeopardize the receipt of future federal administrative funding if it is perceived as overly broad relative to federal policy regarding benefit denial, posing a serious threat to the integrity and stability of the unemployment insurance program.

I remain puzzled by the Legislature's persistent focus on changing and restricting economic assistance programs, particularly in the absence of any broader, substantive proposals to effectively tackle our state's generational workforce challenges. What is especially concerning is that, instead of advancing or adopting the comprehensive solutions I have proposed to address these issues, even without presenting alternatives on its own, the Legislature seems primarily intent on reintroducing bills I have previously vetoed.

The people of Wisconsin rightfully expect their legislators to prioritize pressing issues affecting our state and to collaborate in developing meaningful solutions to address those issues. The workforce challenges that have long persisted deserve immediate action and effort by the Legislature. The continued failure to address these challenges directly will have devastating consequences for our state's workforce, our communities, and our economy.

My commitment to the people of Wisconsin remains—I will always work to do the right thing, and I am committed to working with any legislator on either side of the aisle who shares my concerns and is ready to work together on substantive legislation to comprehensively address our state's workforce challenges.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Tony Evers
Governor