



Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 3, 2026

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 281 in its entirety.

This bill would create a new exception to the lowest-bidder award by prohibiting the state from purchasing or contracting for materials, services, and certain construction work with an employer that does not verify that all of its employees are eligible to work in the United States through the federal employment eligibility verification program, known as E-Verify, among other provisions.

I am vetoing this bill because I object to the significant restrictions that would be placed on state government agencies by only allowing contracts with those businesses that use the largely voluntary federal E-Verify system. This system is only used by a fraction of employers nationwide, in part because it has high error rates that have wrongly denied employment to workers, especially authorized, legal immigrant workers. Furthermore, I object to the additional administrative burden for state and local governments by requiring the use of the E-Verify system for each new employee hired, including the time and effort required to resolve potential system errors, when this system is not required to ensure lawful hiring practices.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Tony Evers
Governor