



Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 8, 2026

To The Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 793 in its entirety.

This bill would statutorily codify the roles and duties of the Office of Internal Audit within the Department of Employee Trust Funds. It would also create an unclassified internal auditor position to lead the office, reporting directly to the Employee Trust Funds Board rather than to the department secretary, as it does currently. The board would be authorized to create or abolish the internal auditor position funded through the department's main administrative appropriation. In addition, if the incumbent classified service employee currently serving as the internal auditor has achieved permanent status and is appointed as the unclassified internal auditor, then the incumbent employee would be entitled to classified service reinstatement privileges. Upon the effective date of the bill, the incumbent internal auditor employee would continue to serve in that position until an internal auditor outside of the classified service is appointed by the board.

I am vetoing this bill because I object to the creation of an internal auditor position that serves outside of the classified service. Currently, each division administrator and office director within the department is a classified service employee to protect them from political or other undue pressure. While I support the transfer of oversight of the Office of Internal Audit from the secretary of the department to the board to align the department's internal auditing functions with industry best practice, establishing a new unclassified position is unnecessary and potentially problematic.

In each of my four executive budgets, I proposed the establishment of a classified position to lead the Office of Internal Audit, overseen by the board. On each occasion, the provision was not considered by the Joint Committee on Finance. I would have been supportive of a bill mirroring the provisions in my executive budgets that codified the roles and duties of the office, transferred office oversight to the board, and established a classified position as office director. Unfortunately, Legislative Republicans did not consider my prior proposals for the office and did not seek my input before moving forward with this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Evers
Governor