



Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 8, 2026

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 956 in its entirety.

This bill would prohibit the Department of Safety and Professional Services and any local unit of government from requiring an automatic fire sprinkler system to be installed in accordance with the state commercial building code in specified agricultural warehouses, for new construction begun after the bill's effective date. These warehouses are defined as facilities primarily used to store and distribute agricultural chemicals, such as fertilizers and pesticides.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to changing the commercial building code without using a process that includes the Commercial Building Code Council. This process ensures that there are appropriate technical evaluations of changes, stakeholder input is considered, and there is a comprehensive assessment of safety and economic impacts to ensure that fire protection standards continue to observe the highest level of public safety for our citizens and businesses. Additionally, the bill is unnecessary because the department already maintains exemption and variance processes to address unique circumstances, such as those identified in this bill, in building codes. Warehouse owners who believe their facility should not be equipped with automatic fire sprinkler systems due to the nature of the products stored in that warehouse can currently use this process to exempt this requirement and will continue to be able to do so moving forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Evers
Governor