



# Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 8, 2026

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am partially vetoing Assembly Bill 1034.

The bill would authorize the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System to enter into agreements, or facilitate opportunities, that allow student athletes to receive compensation for the use of their name, image, and likeness (NIL). It would require students to disclose such agreements and place certain restrictions on the use of them. The bill also would prohibit the board or system institutions from restricting athletes' ability to use their NIL outside official team activities or to obtain professional representation, or to use state general purpose revenue (GPR) to create or support those compensation arrangements.

Further, the bill would provide state funding for certain athletic facility maintenance and debt service, including \$14.6 million GPR annually for UW–Madison, and \$200,000 GPR annually each for the UW–Milwaukee Klotsche Center and the UW–Green Bay Phoenix Sports Center and Athletic Field Complex.

I am partially vetoing sections 1 through 4 of the bill to remove references to maintenance costs in the creation of s. 20.285(1)(cj), s. 20.285(1)(ck), and s. 20.285(1)(cL). I am partially vetoing this bill because I object to the potential confusion created by referring to “maintenance,” and my partial veto will better reflect the intent that the funding alleviate existing debt service. I also object to how this bill unnecessarily restricts the use of funds appropriated for athletic facilities within the University of Wisconsin System. I believe that greater flexibility is necessary to ensure this funding can be used effectively and allow the system to maximize the state's investment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Evers".

Tony Evers  
Governor