

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE

August 4, 2023

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing **Assembly Bill 201** in its entirety.

This bill would require the Department of Safety and Professional Services to post and update specific information on its website for each license, permit, or certificate that it issues every month. The department would have to post and update the following credential metrics, for each credential and collectively: (a) the median number of days from the day that all required application fees for an initial, renewal, or reciprocal credential application are submitted to the date a final determination is made; (b) the number of initial, renewal, or reciprocal credential applications submitted over the prior month; (c) the number of final determinations made on initial, renewal, and reciprocal credential applications over the prior month; and (d) the number of initial, renewal, and credential applications for which more than 45 days have passed since the applicant submitted all required fees or, if a fee is waived, since the application was submitted. In addition, the department would be required to report the number of applications undergoing legal review and where necessary information to complete the review from the applicant or a third party is pending.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety for several reasons. I object to the Legislature requiring the department to provide arbitrary metrics that not only would not offer meaningful information to applicants but would divert critical resources away from the department's critical goal of processing applications efficiently and effectively. More specifically, I object to the Legislature mandating additional reporting requirements without providing the necessary resources for implementation, most especially given that the Legislature is acutely aware of urgent resource needs at the department but nevertheless refused to fulfill my request for additional staffing and resources to meet the department's current workload. The failure to do so has once again ensured that existing, pressing needs at the department will go unmet. The preparation and continual updating of the metrics on the department's website would divert valuable staff time away from the actual evaluation and processing of applications. The bill would not only not speed up the licensure process but would actually cause processing delays by placing unnecessary burdens on the department. Without providing the necessary, additional resources to implement the requirements of the bill, I cannot support it.

Respectfully submitted,
TONY EVERS
Governor