

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE

March 29, 2024

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing **Assembly Bill 669** in its entirety.

This bill would, if certain criteria apply, create immunity from civil and criminal liability for motor vehicle sellers and would provide that a seller is not responsible for local ordinance violations committed involving the motor vehicle.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to creating unnecessarily broad immunity from civil and criminal liability. I appreciate the bill attempts to clarify the law involving a seller's liability after a vehicle is sold; however, under current statutory and common law, sellers are already generally not liable in the situations described by the bill's authors. Where only minor alterations to current law may be needed, the bill is over prescriptive in addressing the issues it seeks to resolve. I am concerned, for instance, this bill would preempt any basis for a seller's liability, including liability arising out of the sale of the vehicle, except in very limited circumstances.

As I said in my veto message for 2021 Senate Bill 570, I believe the presumption should be an open courthouse door to anyone seeking justice and an honest debate of the law of the land, and any immunity or deviation from that presumption should be tailored and finite. Unfortunately, the immunities created by this bill are too broad and could be better tailored to address a seller's liability after the vehicle is sold.

Respectfully submitted,
TONY EVERS
Governor