



JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

April 21, 2004

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 64. This bill repeals current law provisions that allow the Governor to request an extension for introducing the executive budget message and bill in January of the odd numbered years. It also removes such an option for the Building Commission in submitting its capital budget recommendations to the Joint Committee on Finance in April of the odd numbered year.

I am vetoing this bill because I object to the reduced amount of time that a Governor would have to ensure that increasingly complex budgets are balanced based on the best and most recent estimates of available revenues. The latest revenue estimates at the time of introduction of the Governor's budget, while not required by state statute, are routinely developed by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau in the last two weeks of January and are used as the basis for determining if a budget is in balance. To require that a budget be submitted within a few days of this information becoming available is unreasonable and sets the stage for unnecessary disagreement between the Governor and the Legislature.

While the limited focus of this bill leaves me no choice but a veto, I remain committed to improving the budget process. Together, the Legislature and I worked to complete the most recent budget on time and without a preponderance of nonfiscal policy items. I look forward to continued progress in improving the state's financial and budget management.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Doyle".

JIM DOYLE
Governor