



JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

July 24, 2003

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

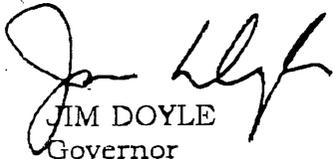
I have approved Assembly Bill 123 as 2003 Wisconsin Act 35 and have deposited it in the Office of the Secretary of State. I have exercised partial vetoes in Sections 1d and 3.

Assembly Bill 123 creates an appropriation to enable the Wisconsin Elections Board to receive money from the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA). I favor Wisconsin complying with federal initiatives that will bring increased federal dollars to Wisconsin, and provide funding to improve and strengthen the elections process in Wisconsin. The Legislature, however, included language that restricts the Elections Board in its ability to implement the federal mandates of HAVA.

Sections 1d and 3 require the Elections Board to specify, by administrative rule, each specific purpose for expenditures from the fund for each fiscal year. I am vetoing Section 1d and partially vetoing section 3 in order to give the Elections Board the flexibility to responsibly administer the HAVA funds. The administrative rule process is time consuming and may hinder the Elections Board's ability to comply with federal requirements, potentially resulting in higher costs or lost revenues for the state of Wisconsin. Federal law requires that the Elections Board submit an annual plan to the federal government outlining and updating the way that the state spends the HAVA money. The Board is also subject to the oversight of the Legislative Audit Bureau, which conducts federal compliance audits of agencies that receive federal funds.

I am a strong supporter of strengthening election administration in Wisconsin. I also support oversight of agency spending. However, there are less costly and more efficient ways of accomplishing this goal.

Respectfully submitted,


JIM DOYLE
Governor