



JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

April 18, 2006

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 969. The bill provides that any cash deposit used as bond must first be applied to pay restitution to the victim of the crime if the defendant is convicted. Additionally, under AB 969, a new form of payment to the victim is created, called recompense. This payment is initiated when a defendant does not meet his or her bond conditions and forfeits his or her cash deposit. A judge may order the defendant to pay a recompense amount to the victim of the crime for which bond was established, using the forfeited cash. The recompense amount is ordered before the defendant is convicted.

While I agree with the goal of the restitution provisions of this bill, which allow cash deposits for bond to be used to get additional moneys to the victims of crimes, I am vetoing AB 969 based on the impact of the recompense portions of the bill. One of the bill's authors has actually requested that I do so because of an unintended drafting error which results in a shift of resources in cases where recompense and restitution are ordered. If the restitution amount is less than or equal to the recompense amount already ordered, the restitution is paid entirely to the state general fund. As a result, counties may lose significant amounts of money, even as they work hard to support the circuit court system and provide victim services.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM DOYLE
Governor