July 21, 2021 – Introduced by Senators Testin, Felzkowski, Roth, Cowles, Bewley and Nass, cosponsored by Representatives Vander Meer, Krug, Rozar, Dittrich, Edming, Knodl, Kuglitsch, Magnafici, Mursau, Murphy, Ohnstad, Oldenburg, Shankland, Snodgrass, Snyder, Spiros, Steffen, Tauchen, Tittel and Wichgers. Referred to Committee on Labor and Regulatory Reform.

AN ACT to renumber and amend 101.17; and to create 101.17 (2) of the statutes; relating to: inspection requirements for chemical recovery boilers.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the Department of Safety and Professional Services has promulgated rules that impose inspection requirements on boilers. This bill affects those requirements for chemical recovery boilers. If the owner or user of a chemical recovery boiler maintains insurance coverage for the boiler and is in good standing with the insurer that provides the coverage, the bill limits the frequency of periodic inspections, including internal inspection, that require taking the boiler out of service. Under the bill, those periodic inspections may be required no more frequently than once every 24 months. The frequency limit applies to inspections of the boiler or any of its components.

In addition, the bill imposes a deadline on DSPS to act on applications for exemptions or extensions with respect to periodic inspections of chemical recovery boilers. If the owner or user of the boiler applies for an exemption or extension at least 120 days before the expiration of the inspection period that applies to the boiler, the bill requires DSPS to take final action on the application at least 90 days before the expiration of that inspection period.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:
SECTION 1. 101.17 of the statutes is renumbered 101.17 (1) and amended to read:

101.17 (1) GENERAL PROHIBITION. No machine, mechanical device, or steam boiler shall be installed or used in this state which does not fully comply with the requirements of the laws of this state enacted for the safety of employees and frequenters in places of employment and public buildings and with the orders of the department adopted and published in conformity with this subchapter. Any person violating this subsection shall be subject to the forfeitures provided in s. 101.02 (12) and (13).

SECTION 2. 101.17 (2) of the statutes is created to read:

101.17 (2) CHEMICAL RECOVERY BOILER INSPECTIONS. (a) If the owner or user of a chemical recovery boiler maintains insurance coverage for the boiler and is in good standing with the insurer that provides the coverage, no periodic inspection, including an internal inspection, of the boiler or any of its components that requires taking the boiler out of service may be required more frequently than once every 24 months.

(b) If the owner or user of a chemical recovery boiler applies to the department for an exemption from a periodic inspection requirement, or an extension of the period between inspections that is required, and the application is made at least 120 days before the expiration of the inspection period that applies to the boiler, the department shall take final action on the application at least 90 days before the expiration of that inspection period.