

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE

August 8, 2025

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing **Assembly Bill 73** in its entirety.

This bill would create a new chapter of the Wisconsin Statutes for specialty courts. It would statutorily recognize specialized dockets for treatment courts and for commercial cases in circuit courts. It would also create procedures for any judicial administrative districts that have established specialized dockets for commercial cases and allow the Chief Justice to add additional districts to the commercial court docket upon the recommendation of the Director of State Courts. The bill would also require that certain cases be assigned to those commercial dockets and allow other eligible cases to be assigned to them.

I support the intent of creating and investing in dockets and problem-solving courts that are designed to respond to unique needs, reduce recidivism, increase efficiency in the justice system, and bolster public safety. Investing in data-driven, evidence-based efforts like treatment courts can help improve outcomes and reduce the likelihood of reoffending while ultimately saving resources and taxpayer dollars in the long run.

However, I am vetoing this bill because I object to the Legislature encroaching upon other constitutional offices and branches of government, including attempting to micromanage the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The Wisconsin Supreme Court and Wisconsin's court system are uniquely suited to determine whether and when specialized dockets and courts are appropriate and necessary. For example, after creating a pilot project in 2017 for business and commercial case dockets, the Wisconsin Supreme Court last year voted to terminate the pilot, declining to extend it for another two years—an effort the Legislature is now nevertheless attempting to resurrect and permanently codify over the Court's apparent objections. Should the Wisconsin Supreme Court decide creating additional problem-solving courts or pilots are appropriate and necessary, I am confident the Court is capable of making such a determination without being compelled by the Legislature.

Respectfully submitted,
TONY EVERS
Governor