

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE

April 8, 2022

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing **Assembly Bill 643** in its entirety.

This bill would specify that a Department of Administration construction project selection committee may not refuse an architect or engineer for a construction project costing less than \$7,400,000 simply because the architect or engineer operates a firm with only one architect or engineer.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to removing requirements designed to protect the state, and in turn, its taxpayers. It is prudent for the state to require that firms wishing to complete large and expensive building projects have a second architect or engineer in the event that the first architect is ill, injured, or otherwise unable to complete the project on time. The state has an obligation to protect taxpayer dollars, especially when it comes to multimillion-dollar building projects; it is therefore reasonable to require that if a firm wishes to take part in a building project for the state, the firm must either have a second architect or engineer, as the project warrants, or partner with another architect or engineer to give the state necessary assurance of coverage.

Respectfully submitted,
TONY EVERS
Governor