

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE

April 8, 2022

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing **Assembly Bill 776** in its entirety.

Under current law, it is a Class I felony to damage or graffiti property if the damage exceeds \$2,500 or to damage certain property on state-owned land. This bill further specifies in state law that any damage or graffiti to certain property or to a structure, plaque, statue, painting, or other monument of commemorative or historical significance that is maintained by any state, county, or municipality or that is located on publicly owned land would also result in a Class I felony.

I am vetoing this bill because the behavior this bill purports to address is already prohibited and punishable under current law. It is already a Class A misdemeanor to commit these acts if the damage is less than \$2,500. An individual who commits these acts and causes damage valued at over \$2,500 is already punishable with a Class I felony under current Wisconsin state law. Thus, current law already ensures individuals who engage in this behavior can be held accountable.

Respectfully submitted,
TONY EVERS
Governor