

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE

April 8, 2022

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing **Assembly Bill 824** in its entirety.

This bill would create a five-year penalty enhancer for a battery to a Department of Corrections employee by a person in custody. This bill would also require that any sentence imposed pursuant to this bill must run consecutively, rather than concurrently, to any sentence the person is already serving.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because the conduct this bill purportedly seeks to address is already prohibited and punishable under current law and judges already have the discretion to impose a sentence consecutively rather than concurrently. More specifically, current law already outlines increased penalties for batteries committed under specific circumstances, including currently existing increased penalties if committed by a person in our care at a correctional institution, or if the victim is a probation agent, extended supervision agent, parole agent, community supervision agent, aftercare agent, or a nurse.

Respectfully submitted,
TONY EVERS
Governor