



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

March 26, 2021

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 38 in its entirety.

This bill, as amended, requires the Governor to submit a plan to the Legislature, no later than 21 days after the effective date of the bill, for when all state employees that were required to perform their duties at the offices of their employment with an agency on March 1, 2020, will return to in-person work at the offices of their agencies.

I am vetoing this bill because it encroaches on the authority of the Governor to administer and oversee employment policies for executive branch agencies. While the required plan would be nonbinding, I object to the interference by the Legislature on executive branch employment policy.

Moreover, our state workers have been on the frontline response of this pandemic, working to serve Wisconsinites through one of the worst public health crises our state has faced. Our state would not have been able to adequately respond to this crisis or provide the support Wisconsinites have needed without our state workers, many of whom who have gone well beyond the ordinary call of duty to serve the people of our state in the face of unparalleled challenges. This work should not be discounted or demeaned. These workers deserve our gratitude and respect.

As more individuals are vaccinated, the Department of Administration (DOA) has begun post-COVID-19 pandemic planning for state employees and agency offices. According to the Division of Personnel Management, beginning April 5, 2021, state facilities managed by DOA will reopen to a larger segment of state employees and the public. DOA continues to collaborate with the Department of Health Services on developing and updating the reopening policies for executive branch agency offices and will adjust capacity guidelines as warranted, with a goal of resuming normal office operations during the summer of 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tony Evers'.

Tony Evers
Governor