

# STATE OF WISCONSIN

# Senate Journal

## One-Hundred and Sixth Regular Session

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THURSDAY, February 29, 2024

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The Chief Clerk made the following entries under the above date.

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### CHIEF CLERK'S ENTRIES

#### SENATE ENROLLED PROPOSALS

The Chief Clerk records:

**Senate Bill 408**  
**Senate Bill 541**  
**Senate Bill 546**  
**Senate Bill 592**  
**Senate Bill 613**  
**Senate Bill 641**  
**Senate Bill 643**  
**Senate Bill 687**  
**Senate Bill 744**  
**Senate Bill 789**

Report correctly enrolled on 2-29-2024.

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### REPORT OF COMMITTEES

The committee on **Mental Health, Substance Abuse Prevention, Children and Families** reported and recommended:

#### **Senate Bill 877**

Relating to: funding for victim services and domestic abuse services, training for grant recipients, grants to child advocacy centers, and making an appropriation.

Senate Substitute Amendment 1 adoption.

Ayes: 5 - Senators James, Cabral-Guevara, Ballweg, L. Johnson and Carpenter.

Noes: 0 - None.

Passage as amended.

Ayes: 5 - Senators James, Cabral-Guevara, Ballweg, L. Johnson and Carpenter.

Noes: 0 - None.

*JESSE JAMES*

Chairperson

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### PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Pursuant to Senate Rule 17 (5), Representative O'Connor withdrawn as a cosponsor of **Senate Bill 901**.

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### State of Wisconsin Office of the Governor

February 29, 2024

The Honorable, the Senate:

The following bill(s), originating in the Senate, have been approved, signed and deposited in the office of the Secretary of State:

<u>Bill Number</u>	<u>Act Number</u>	<u>Date Approved</u>
<b>Senate Bill 780</b> .....	99 .....	February 29, 2024
<b>Senate Bill 971</b> .....	100 .....	February 29, 2024

(Vetoed in part)

Sincerely,  
*TONY EVERS*  
Governor

Pursuant to s. 35.095 (1)(b), Wisconsin Statutes, the following 2023 Act(s) have been published:

<u>Act Number</u>	<u>Bill Number</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>
<b>Wisconsin Act 100</b> .....	971 .....	March 1, 2024

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### State of Wisconsin Office of the Governor

February 29, 2024

The Honorable, the Senate:

I have approved **Senate Bill 971** as 2023 Wisconsin Act 100 and have deposited it in the Office of the Secretary of State. I have exercised the partial veto with respect to sections 1 [as it relates to s. 20.255 (1) (fc) and s. 20.255 (2) (fc)], 2, 3, 4, and 5.

This bill would create two appropriations to fund the requirements imposed by 2023 Wisconsin Act 20, which created an Office of Literacy in the Department of Public Instruction that administers a literacy coaching program and early literacy grants. The bill also specifies that the director of the Office of Literacy is assigned to executive salary group three and would set a repeal date of July 1, 2028, with respect to the literacy coaching program appropriation.

I have exercised the partial veto with respect to sections 1 [as it relates to s. 20.255 (1) (fc)] and 2 to remove reference to "coaching" and the related literacy coaching statutory reference, in order to consolidate support for the office and

all literacy program initiatives in one appropriation under s. 20.255 (1) (fc). I have exercised the partial veto with respect to section 1 [as it relates to s. 20.255 (2) (fc)] and section 4 to eliminate the creation of s. 20.255 (2) (fc). I have further exercised the partial veto with respect to sections 3 and 5 to remove the July 1, 2028.1 repeal of s. 20.255 (1) (fc).

Ensuring our kids have the reading and literacy tools and skills to be successful both in and out of the classroom is critically important, as is improving reading and literacy outcomes for kids across our state. I am partially vetoing this bill because I object to overly complicating the allocation of funding related to literacy programs in Wisconsin by creating multiple appropriations for what could be accomplished with one. By consolidating funding into one appropriation, the department will have the flexibility necessary to utilize the appropriate amount of funding for various literacy needs based on the needs of Wisconsin schools. The department would not be able to do so with funding divided between multiple appropriations. Promoting early literacy and learning is critical for future academic achievement, and flexibility is crucial to meet investment needs for coaches, grants, and professional development alike. Consolidating funding into a single continuing appropriation will support his important goal and simplify the administration of funding for the department.

Further, the proposed appropriation structure under the bill does not align with the expected implementation timeline for early literacy interventions under Act 20. Furthermore, removing the July 1, 2028, repeal of the appropriation will create flexibility to invest in literacy programs for as long as the state has funding available and as long as decision makers invest in improving reading instruction in Wisconsin.1 and I object to potentially prematurely ending this investment.

Further, I object to signing a bill with an apparent error that benefits only private choice schools and independent charter schools. Private choice schools and independent charter schools are eligible for grants to purchase approved early literacy curriculum, and independent charter schools are eligible for funding to support the mandatory early reading instruction professional development. As drafted either intentionally or inadvertently, these entities could also receive an increase in per pupil funding because the bill does not contain standard provisions to exclude the newly created categorical appropriation from the indexing formula used to increase per pupil payments for private choice, independent charter, Special Needs Scholarship, and open enrollment students. Consequently, a private choice or independent

charter school could receive both a grant for curriculum and an ongoing increase in per pupil funding. Contrastingly, no such funding increase would be provided to public school districts under the bill.

The single appropriation created through my partial veto will allow the department to administer the literacy coaching program, curriculum grants, and financial assistance for early literacy professional development effectively and efficiently. I am hopeful that the department and the Joint Committee on Finance will work quickly to release funding from the committee's supplemental appropriation to support the important work of improving reading and literacy outcomes for our kids.

Respectfully submitted,  
 TONY EVERS  
 Governor

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**LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU CORRECTIONS**

**CORRECTIONS IN:**

**SENATE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 2,  
 TO 2023 SENATE BILL 608**

Prepared by the Legislative Reference Bureau  
 (February 29, 2024)

In enrolling, the following corrections were made:

1. Page 1, line 9: delete “~~and~~” and substitute “and”.
2. Page 2, line 17: delete “~~and~~ 118.197 and” and substitute “~~and~~ 118.197, and”.

**2023 SENATE BILL 641**

Prepared by the Legislative Reference Bureau  
 (February 16, 2024)

In enrolling, the following corrections were made:

1. Page 2, line 12: delete “s.” and substitute “s:”.
2. Page 3, line 23: after that line insert:  
 “**SECTION 7m.** 941.23 (1) (ap) of the statutes is amended to read:  
 941.23 (1) (ap) Notwithstanding s. 939.22 (10), “dangerous weapon” does not include a knife or an electric weapon.”
3. Page 4, line 19: on lines 19 and 24, delete “s.” and substitute “s:”.