



2025 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 11

February 21, 2025 - Introduced by Senators TOMCZYK, BRADLEY and NASS, cosponsored by Representatives ALLEN, PIWOWARCZYK, BEHNKE, BRILL, DITTRICH, GUNDRUM, HURD, KNODL, KREIBICH, MAXEY, MURPHY, MURSAU, O'CONNOR, PENTERMAN, WICHGERS and TUSLER. Referred to Committee on Government Operations, Labor and Economic Development.

1 **To amend** section 10 (1) (c) of article V of the constitution; **relating to:** restricting
2 the governor's partial veto authority to only rejecting entire bill sections of an
3 appropriation bill that are capable of separate enactment and reducing
4 appropriations in a bill (first consideration).

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This proposed constitutional amendment, proposed to the 2025 legislature on first consideration, amends the Wisconsin Constitution to restrict the governor, in exercising his or her partial veto power over an appropriation bill, to only rejecting one or more entire bill sections of the enrolled bill capable of separate enactment as a complete, entire, and workable law and reducing appropriations in the enrolled bill. The governor may not partially veto an enrolled bill in any other way.

Currently, in exercising the partial veto power, the governor is limited only in that he or she may not create a new word by rejecting individual letters in the words of the enrolled bill and may not create a new sentence by combining parts of two or more sentences of the enrolled bill. In *Bartlett v. Evers*, 2020 WI 68, the Wisconsin Supreme Court further restricted the governor's partial veto power, but there was no agreement by the court on the reasons for the new restrictions. The new restriction on the governor's partial veto power contained in this resolution subsumes and expands on the current restrictions in the constitution.

