

Budget Protection Act aims to limit governor’s veto powers

Evers’ office calls act a ‘temper tantrum’ response

By Ashley Haynes

ahaynes@conley.net 262-513-2681

WAUKESHA — After democratic Gov. Tony Evers used his partial veto power to make 78 changes to a Republican version of the state budget before signing it last week, two local legislators have introduced the “State Budget Protection Act”, which seeks to prohibit the governor from using a partial veto to increase state spending without more input from the Legislature via a “clarification” to the state’s Constitution.

“During this budget process, Governor Evers aggressively modified the Legislature’s budget with his partial veto to increase state spending by over \$84 million without approval from the Legislature – the branch of government closest to taxpayers. We need to prevent this from ever happening again,” said state Sen. Craig, RTown of Vernon, in a news release. Craig and

state Rep. Mike Kuglitsch, RNew Berlin, introduced the act on Monday.

Some of the budget changes that went into effect following Evers’ use of his partial veto power included an increase in public school funding by \$65 million, \$25 million in funding to pay for new state facilities to replace Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake juvenile prisons, \$10 million for electric car charging stations, \$15 million to replace buses, and more.

“These sore losers want to change the rules every time they don’t get their way,” said Melissa Bauldauff, communications director for Gov. Evers’ office. “Republicans in the Legislature chose to ignore the will of the people, but Gov. Evers listened to the people who overwhelmingly said they wanted to see more investments in our public schools. To be clear, this is a temper tantrum in response to Gov. Evers using his authority to align the budget more closely with the will of the people and put more money into our kids’ schools.”

Craig said the Legislature’s

role in the budget process has been “continually eroded” by the Executive Branch and this act is an attempt to protect taxpayers and restore the Legislature’s authority.

“This amendment will ensure that the will of taxpayers, through their elected representatives, will have final say in limiting the overall spending in the state budget,” Craig said.

Also contributing:

Associated Press



Craig



Kuglitsch



Evers