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EXECUTIVE VETOES OF BILLS PASSED BY THE 2003 WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2003 THROUGH NOVEMBER 12, 2003

I. INTRODUCTION

This brief contains the veto messages of Governor Jim Doyle affecting all legislation passed by the 2003 Wisconsin Legislature from September 1, 2003, through November 12, 2003.

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2003 Assembly Bill 475	2

Partial Vetoes	Page
To publication time: none	2

Veto Brief Format

This brief provides the following information:

- 1) The legislative action for each completely vetoed or partially vetoed bill, including the vote for final passage in each house and the page number of the loose-leaf journals in each house referring to the vote (“S.J.” stands for Senate Journal; “A.J.” stands for Assembly Journal).
- 2) The text of the governor’s veto message for each bill.
- 3) For partially vetoed bills, the sections of the act in which the veto occurred (with the vetoed material indicated by a distinguishing shading — **like this**, and the write downs indicated by a distinguishing reverse shading of white numerals on black background — **like this**).

II. COMPLETELY VETOED BILLS

2003 Assembly Bill 475: Marriage Between One Man and One Woman

On October 23, 2003, the assembly passed Assembly Bill 475 by a vote of 68 to 29, A.J. 10/23/03, p. 457.

On November 5, 2003, the senate concurred in Assembly Bill 475 by a vote of 22 to 10, S.J. 11/05/03, p. 467.

On November 7, 2003, the Governor vetoed Assembly Bill 475, A.J. 11/10/03, p. 520.

TEXT OF GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE

November 7, 2003

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing **Assembly Bill 475** in its entirety. This bill purports to ban what existing state law already clearly prohibits: same sex-marriage. Specifically, Assembly Bill 475 adds that marriage is between "one man and one woman", even though current state statutes already define marriage as a civil contract between a "husband and wife".

This bill is just another example of a legislature focusing its time and energy on divisive, mean-spirited bills that do nothing to grow Wisconsin's economy, make health care more affordable and accessible, or improve our public schools. I have made it clear since the beginning of this debate that Assembly Bill 475 is redundant and unnecessary. The Wisconsin Supreme Court has said unequivocally that marriage between a husband and a wife means nothing other than marriage between one man and one woman.

Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager issued an opinion calling Assembly Bill 475 "legally indistinguishable from current state law", and also said the legislation would "add nothing of substance to existing statutes". I issued a similar opinion as Attorney General in 1997, and find nothing new in this legislation that warrants my support. It seems that nobody except members of the legislature are confused as to whether a husband is a man and a wife is a woman.

Again, I urge the legislative leadership to join me in focusing their attention on the real issues facing the citizens of Wisconsin, instead of wasting the taxpayers' time and money on divisive, partisan fights that accomplish nothing.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM DOYLE

Governor

III. PARTIALLY VETOED BILLS

No bill was partially vetoed by the Governor during the period from September 1, 2003, to November 12, 2003.
