



State of Wisconsin  
2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

LRB-6176/1  
CMH:cjs

## 2019 BILL

1     **AN ACT relating to:** exempting from penalty businesses that remain open in  
2             violation of state or local orders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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*Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Under current law, a person who fails to comply with an order issued by the Department of Health Services for the control of an outbreak or epidemic may be imprisoned for not more than 30 days or fined not more than \$500 or both. Also under current law, a person who intentionally fails to comply with an order issued by the state or a local unit of government who is engaged in emergency management activities is subject to a forfeiture of not more than \$200. This bill exempts from these penalties and forfeitures a business that remains open in violation of an order related to the COVID-19 pandemic that is issued by DHS or a local health officer if the business is making a good faith attempt to comply with the safe business practices and other guidelines issued by DHS.

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*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

3             **SECTION 1. Nonstatutory provisions.**

4             (1) Notwithstanding ss. 252.25 and 323.28, a business may not be subject to a  
5             penalty or forfeiture for remaining open in violation of Emergency Order #28 or any

**BILL**

**SECTION 1**

1 other order relating to the COVID-19 pandemic issued by the department of health  
2 services under s. 252.02 or by a local health officer under s. 252.03 if the business  
3 makes a good faith effort to comply with the safe business practices and other  
4 guidelines issued by the department of health services.

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(END)