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**Advocacy Digest | April 20, 2022**

**Brad Boycks, Executive Director**

On Friday, April 15, Governor Evers announced that he had acted on the remaining bills that were passed by the Wisconsin Legislature prior to both houses adjourning and completing their work for the 2021-2022.

Enclosed below is summary of the major issues that were passed, items that were vetoed by Governor Evers, bills stopped by WBA’s lobbying effort, and one item that still may be considered later this year, a review of the commercial building code.

Thank you for your efforts to assure another successful lobbying effort to help keep Wisconsin housing affordable for Wisconsin families.

**Passed and Signed Into Law:**

* [2021 Wisconsin Act 1](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/related/lcactmemo/act001.pdf): exempts PPP loans from state income and franchise tax and allows deduction of expenses paid from such income
* [2021 Wisconsin Act 4](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/related/lcactmemo/act004.pdf): provides immunity for entities from civil liability for a COVID-19-related injury or death, except in the case of reckless or wanton conduct or intentional misconduct
* [2021 Wisconsin Act 67](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/related/lcactmemo/act067.pdf): funds two additional positions at the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) for review and approval of private onsite wastewater treatment systems (POWTS) applications
* [2021 Wisconsin Act 80](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/related/lcactmemo/act080.pdf): allows a 3-year extension for DOT and DNR permits and plat or certified survey maps
* [2021 Wisconsin Act 221](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/related/lcactmemo/act221.pdf): creates a workforce housing rehabilitation loan program at the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA)
* [2021 Wisconsin Act 237](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/related/lcactmemo/act237.pdf): reforms the categories for the initial 12-hour credits and requires 4 hours of credits for the continuing education credits consist of “construction laws and codes and contracts, liability, and risk management”
* State Budget:
	+ 125 million for rural broadband
	+ Income tax reduction: 6.27 to 5.3
	+ No changes to prevailing wage or additional contractor registration

**Vetoed:**

* [Senate Bill 629](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/related/veto_messages/sb629.pdf) would have sets up a program where local municipalities can set up a shovel ready workforce housing development site program which would cap fees to $5000 per dwelling unit and would require all permits be within 60 days. The bill would have also required municipalities participating in the program to issue a needs assessment for the fees related to sewer and water hookup fees.
* [Assembly Bill 152](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/related/veto_messages/ab152.pdf) would have created an exemption from building plan review if the building is under 200,000 square feet, does not have a hazardous or educational use, and the plan is stamped by an architect or registered professional engineer
* [Senate Bill 125](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WIGOV/2021/12/03/file_attachments/2012284/Signed%20Veto%20Message%20-%20125.pdf) would have provided a tax subtraction for certain tuition expenses paid by an individual for an apprenticeship program

**Killed:**

* [AB 786/SB777](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/related/proposals/ab786.pdf) would have allowed for local municipalities to create “stretch codes” to exceed the Uniform Dwelling Code and the Commercial Building Code

**Ongoing:**

* Waiting on DSPS to release a commercial code update. There is a strong possibility that this will contain draconian changes to the energy code for multifamily buildings and we would then oppose those changes during the administrative rule process