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 **Advocacy Digest | July 2019**

 **Brad Boycks, Executive Director**

**State Budget signed into law**

**On July 3 Governor Tony Evers singed the state budget into law while also announcing 78 partial vetoes. Evers’ commented that he “**sternly considered vetoing the Legislatures’ entire budget.”

Ultimately Governor Evers decided to issue 78 partial vetoes and went on to say that “vetoing this budget in its entirety would have been more of the same divisiveness and petty, political theatrics that the people of Wisconsin have had to put up with for far too long.”

We have been tracking several provisions that were addressed by the Joint Finance Committee that were not changed by Governor Evers’ vetoes including:

* No changes to TIF laws
* No additional flexibilities for municipalities to exceed revenue caps
* No changes to prevailing wage laws dealing with developer financed infrastructure
* A first-time homebuyer saving account provision was deleted by the JFC and moves on in the legislative process as a stand along bill
* DSPS will receive $5 million in additional funding to updated and streaming the credential approval process which WBA supported going back to Advocacy Day.

Some veto language that affected provisions we were tracking:

* The original Evers’ budget had a 27% increase on the registration fee for heavy trucks that was removed by the JFC. Governor Evers was able to remove language requiring the DOT to charge the same free for all trucks regardless of weight. This change likely will lead to an increase in the registration fee for heavy trucks.
* A transfer of $5 million from the DSPS Safety and Buildings fund was vetoed by Governor Evers. Transfers from this fund have been approved by both democrat and republican governors in the past.

Other highlights of the state budget that is now 2019 Wisconsin Act 9 include:

* A $518 middle class tax cut
* $570 million more for K-12 education
* $465 million in additional funding for roads

# [NAHB Opposes Portman-Shaheen Energy Bill](http://nahbnow.com/2019/07/nahb-opposes-portman-shaheen-energy-bill/)

Sens. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) today introduced the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act, legislation opposed by NAHB because it would mandate overly costly and aggressive energy efficiency requirements in model building energy codes, which harms housing affordability.

Moreover, the Senate bill would discourage states from amending codes to meet their specific needs and could encourage the Department of Energy (DOE) to move beyond its current role as a “technical advisor” and push overly prescriptive and costly energy targets.

At the same time, [NAHB is supporting bipartisan legislation](http://nahbnow.com/2019/06/bipartisan-codes-bill-promotes-affordability-energy-savings/) introduced in the House by Reps. Kurt Schrader (D-Ore.) and Bill Flores (R-Texas) that offers a more cost-effective way to encourage energy efficiency. The Energy Savings and Building Efficiency Act would accelerate cost-savings for homeowners by requiring that any code or proposal supported by the Department of Energy has a payback of 10 years or less.

The House bill also stipulates that regarding the development of energy codes, DOE would be prohibited from advocating for certain technologies, building materials or construction practices.

NAHB continues to work with Congress to advance cost-effective ways for the federal government to incentivize homeowners to upgrade their homes to be more energy efficient.