

## Assembly Republicans Water Down Toxic Language Allowing Health Officers To Close Wisconsin Businesses

By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

The Wisconsin State Assembly, responding to criticism from me and others, removed from Covid-19 legislation language that would have authorized local health officers to close businesses and gatherings for 14 days without a vote by an elected governing body.

Instead, the assembly, passed amended language proposed by Speaker Robin Vos, limiting the authority to two days. Under current law, health officers can shut down businesses as long as they want,

The new language is better and would force city councils or county board to vote to approve lockdowns or restrictions after 48 hours, limiting the current draconian power held by health officers.

The comprehensive bill contains many other positive provisions, including incentives to reopen schools and limit liability of businesses sued by customers or employees who claim they got the virus at those businesses. The bill now goes to the state senate.

Governor Evers is expected to veto the whole thing anyway.

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