

For Your Information

FYI-11-03
July 24, 2003

July 24, 2003

To: WAHSA Members
From: John Sauer, Executive Director
Subject: Governor Signs Budget Bill Into Law

In a 10:00 a.m. signing ceremony at the Executive Mansion, Governor Jim Doyle today signed into law 2003 Senate Bill 44, the 2003-05 state budget bill. The bill is 2003 Act 33 and includes 131 line-item vetoes.

The following items of interest to WAHSA members were vetoed from the bill:

- While the licensed nursing home bed tax will be set at \$75 per month, the MA rate increase for nursing homes was lowered from 3.2% to 2.6% in each year of the biennium.
- A requirement that DHFS develop and submit to the Joint Committee on Finance a waiver proposal that would exempt certain facilities from the bed tax and a report on the feasibility of exempting private-pay residents from the bed tax.
- The \$43/month refundable income tax credit for private pay nursing home residents paying the bed tax.
- The revision to the nursing home payment formula which would ensure that the same proportionate share of nursing home funding that is allocated to support the direct care cost center in 2002-03 be maintained in the 2003-04 formula.
- The \$810,600 supplemental Medicaid payments to Kilbourn Care Center.
- The requirement for the Bureau of Quality Assurance (BQA) to reduce the number of nursing home surveyors by the same percentage as the number of closures of all facilities surveyed by the BQA.

Significantly more detail on these vetoes and what ultimately is contained in Act 33 will be provided in our next [FYI](#).

