



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Chris Abele

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DATE: April 22, 2015

TO: The Honorable Milwaukee Board of Supervisors

FROM: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive

RE: Board File No. 15-244 on Creating Section 1.17(d) of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances Relative to New Civil Service Rules

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I am returning County Board File No. 15-244 unsigned.

The County Board adopted a resolution on March 26, 2015 that creates new language in the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances that requires the Administration to submit a copy of any proposed civil service rule change in an information report to the Finance, Personnel, and Audit Committee for consideration at the regularly scheduled meeting of that committee that precedes the meeting of the Civil Service Commission at which the proposed rule changes will be presented.

As explained by the Milwaukee County Office of Corporation Counsel in a February 11, 2015 memo titled "New Civil Service Rule VIII," "under Act 14, the County Board 'may not exercise day-to-day control of any county department or subunit' or 'give instructions or orders to any subordinate of the county executive.' §59.794(3)(a),(c). Requiring the HR director to bring Civil Service rules changes to the County Board before taking them to the Commission is contrary to this new statutory directive."

The administration has been and will continue to be open and transparent in sharing important documents, such as proposed changes to Civil Service Rules, with the County Board and the public. However, the stipulation that this must take place prior to a hearing or vote by the Civil Service Commission can create delays in day-to-day administration.