

Whether a contentious Wisconsin law is actually a law became a little clearer after today. A court hearing in Madison clarified the status--for now--of the new law that limits collective bargaining by public unions. Republican leaders had been working on the assumption that the law was in effect. Even though the Secretary of State has been barred from publishing it, necessary under state statutes. Now, a Wisconsin judge has ruled that there should be no further implementation of the law. Dane County Circuit Judge Maryann Sumi said today that her earlier restraining order saying the law shouldn't be enacted had either been ignored or misinterpreted.

Sumi stopped short of saying the law was not already in effect.

The Legislative Reference Bureau posted the law on a legislative website Friday, leading Gov. Scott Walker's administration to declare the law was in effect.