



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2013 Wisconsin Act 96
[2011 Assembly Bill 281]

Warning Lights on School Buses

Under current law, a school bus must be equipped with a 360-degree flashing white strobe light and flashing red warning lights. The operator of a school bus must activate the flashing red warning lights at least 100 feet before stopping to load or unload pupils and may only extinguish them when loading or unloading is complete.

Under 2013 Wisconsin Act 96, a school bus must be equipped with a 360-degree flashing white strobe light and either: (a) flashing red warning lights; or (b) flashing red and amber warning lights. The operator of a bus equipped with flashing red warning lights must follow the same activation procedures as under current law.

The Act provides a different light-activation procedure for operators of buses equipped with flashing red and amber lights. Under the Act, the operator of a bus equipped with flashing red and amber lights must activate the amber lights at least 300 feet before stopping in a 45 mile per hour or greater zone and at least 100 feet before stopping in a less than 45 mile per hour speed zone. At the point of unloading, the operator must bring the bus to a stop, extinguish the amber lights, and activate the red lights. The red lights may be extinguished only after loading or unloading is completed and persons who must cross the highway are safely across.

Effective date: December 15, 2013.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.