



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2013 Assembly Bill 355	Assembly Amendment 1
<i>Memo published: October 7, 2013</i>	<i>Contact: David Moore, Staff Attorney (266-1946)</i>

Current Law

Under current law, the Department of Transportation may issue annual, consecutive-month, or multiple-trip permits for vehicles that exceed statutory limits on size, weight, or load to transport loads near the Michigan-Wisconsin state line (Michigan border permits), which authorize:

1. The transportation of loads over any class of highway for a distance not to exceed 11 miles from the Michigan-Wisconsin state line.
2. The transportation of exclusively peeled or unpeeled forest products cut crosswise, wood chips, or forestry biomass anywhere upon U.S. Highway 2 in Iron County, Ashland County, Florence County, and certain parts of Bayfield County if the vehicle is traveling between Wisconsin and Michigan and does not violate length or weight limitations established under Michigan law.
3. The transportation of exclusively peeled or unpeeled forest products cut crosswise, wood chips, or forestry biomass upon U.S. Highway 2 from State Highway 13 in the City of Ashland through Hart Lake Road in Bayfield County.
4. The transportation of raw forest products or lumber on certain specified stretches of highway, including a portion of U.S. Highway 8 in Oneida and Forest Counties, if the vehicle does not violate Michigan law.

“Raw forest products” is defined as logs, pilings, posts, poles, cordwood products, wood chips, sawdust, pulpwood, intermediary lumber, fuel wood and Christmas trees not altered by a manufacturing process off the land, sawmill, or factory from which they are taken.

Assembly Bill 355

Assembly Bill 355 modifies the authority for vehicles operating under a Michigan border permit in the following ways:

- Provides that a vehicle operating under the second through fourth circumstances described above may transport raw forest products, lumber, and forestry biomass.
- Eliminates the requirement under the second circumstance described above that the vehicle must travel between Wisconsin and Michigan.
- Provides that a vehicle operating under the first three circumstances described above may not violate Michigan law.
- Authorizes vehicles operating under Michigan border permits to operate on additional segments of U.S. Highway 8.
- Provides that a vehicle operating under a Michigan border permit may operate unladen when returning from the delivery of a load, or operating to or from a point of fueling, servicing, or purchase or sale of the vehicle.

Assembly Amendment 1

Assembly Amendment 1 specifies that a Michigan border permit may not authorize the operation of any vehicle or vehicle combination with a maximum gross weight in excess of 164,000 pounds.

Bill History

Representative Mursau offered Assembly Amendment 1 on September 20, 2013. On October 1, 2013, the Assembly Committee on Transportation unanimously recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 1. On the same day, the Assembly Committee on Transportation recommended passage of Assembly Bill 355, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 10; Noes, 1.

DM:jal