



## 1997 ASSEMBLY BILL 161

March 6, 1997 - Introduced by Representatives HARSDORF and NOTESTEIN, cosponsored by Senator GROBSCHMIDT. Referred to Committee on Highways and Transportation.

1     **AN ACT to amend** 347.46 (2) (intro.), 347.46 (2) (a) and 347.46 (2) (b); and **to**  
2     **create** 347.46 (2) (d) of the statutes; **relating to:** requiring mudguards on road  
3     tractors, truck tractors, trailers, semitrailers and farm trailers and minimum  
4     ground clearance for mudguards.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Current law requires every privately owned motor truck and most semitrailers operated on a highway between cities to be equipped with fenders or mudguards to minimize the amount of water, mud and debris thrown by the rear wheels. This requirement does not apply to motor trucks and semitrailers that have dump bodies.

This bill requires every motor truck, road tractor, truck tractor trailer, semitrailer and farm trailer, except farm trucks equipped with dump bodies, whether owned publicly or privately, operated upon a highway to be equipped with fenders or mudguards. The bill reduces the maximum ground clearance of acceptable fenders or mudguards from one-third of the horizontal distance from the center of the rearmost axle to the fender or mudguard to one-fifth of that distance. The bill also establishes a maximum ground clearance of 6 inches for fenders or mudguards on vehicles equipped with dump bodies that are transporting sand, gravel or similar material.

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For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

1           **SECTION 1.** 347.46 (2) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

2           347.46 (2) (intro.) No person shall may operate on a highway in ~~intercity~~  
3 ~~movement any privately owned~~ any motor truck ~~or privately owned, road tractor,~~  
4 trailer, farm trailer, semitrailer ~~drawn by a or~~ truck tractor, except those motor farm  
5 trucks and semitrailers equipped with dump bodies, unless such motor truck or  
6 semitrailer the vehicle is equipped with rear fenders or mudguards of such material  
7 and so constructed and placed as to restrict to a minimum the splashing of water,  
8 mud or other material which may be thrown by the rear wheels. ~~Such~~ The rear  
9 fenders or mudguards shall meet all of the following minimum specifications:

10           **SECTION 2.** 347.46 (2) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

11           347.46 (2) (a) The fenders or mudguards shall cover the tire or multiple tires  
12 they are protecting starting at the top from a line drawn vertically through the center  
13 of the axle and extending rearward and downward so that the fender or mudguard  
14 under any condition of operation or loading of the vehicle has a ground clearance of  
15 not more than ~~one third~~ one-fifth of the horizontal distance from the center of the  
16 rearmost axle to the fender or mudguard;.

17           **SECTION 3.** 347.46 (2) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

18           347.46 (2) (b) The fenders or mudguards shall be at least as wide as the tire or  
19 multiple tires they are protecting;.

20           **SECTION 4.** 347.46 (2) (d) of the statutes is created to read:

