



State of Wisconsin
2011 - 2012 LEGISLATURE



LRB-1783/2
EVM:cjs:jf

2011 SENATE BILL 341

December 19, 2011 - Introduced by Senators LAZICH, WANGGAARD, KEDZIE, OLSEN and GALLOWAY, cosponsored by Representatives SPANBAUER and PETROWSKI. Referred to Committee on Transportation and Elections.

- 1 **AN ACT to create** 346.03 (2m) of the statutes; **relating to:** open doors on
2 authorized emergency vehicles.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, when an authorized emergency vehicle is responding to an emergency call or in pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, the operator is exempt from traffic restrictions relating to parking if the vehicle's warning lights are activated. The operator is also exempt from traffic restrictions relating to speed, traffic signals, and direction of travel if the vehicle's warning lights and siren are activated. However, even when an authorized emergency vehicle is operated with the vehicle's warning lights and siren activated, the operator must drive with due regard under the circumstances for the safety of all persons and may be held responsible for the consequences of his or her reckless disregard for the safety of others.

Also under current law, no person may open any door of a motor vehicle located on a highway without first taking due precaution to ensure that opening the door will not interfere with the movement of traffic or endanger any other person or vehicle.

Under this bill, a law enforcement officer, a fire fighter, or emergency medical personnel may open and leave open any door of an authorized emergency vehicle when the vehicle is stopped, standing, or parked and the person is performing official duties.

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

