Rule
98-185

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MEMORANDUM

January 14, 1999

TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation
FR: Senator Roger Breske, Chair RB.
RE: Proposed Administrative Rules

Below, please find descriptions of various administrative rules recently referred to the Senate Committee on Transportation. For your reference, I have included a brief summary, prepared by the department, of each rule. If you would like a copy of any of these rules, or if you would like to request a hearing, please contact Vaughn in my office before ***Friday, January 28, 1999.***

CLEARINGHOUSE RULE 98-143; *Relating to eligibility of TEA projects.* This proposed rule would delete language related to the eligibility of TEA projects which requires that a TEA project be at least 25% of the total transportation facility improvement cost. The not "less than 25%" rule had previously excluded economic development projects based upon the size of a transportation improvement project.

Clearinghouse Rule 98-145; *Relating to excursion permits on state-owned rail trails.* This proposed rule would amend the Department's polices and procedures related to the operation of excursion trains on state-owned railroad lines.

CLEARINGHOUSE RULE 98-147; *Relating to vehicle restraining devices.* This rule clarifies the existing requirement that airbags which have been deployed must be replaced so that the vehicle continues to have all restraining devices with which it was originally manufactured.

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CLEARINGHOUSE RULE 98-153; *Relating to school bus equipment standards.* 1997 Wis. Act 117 requires the strobe light be a mandatory piece of equipment for all school buses. Use of all strobe lights, under this rule, would be required whenever a school bus is in operation on a highway for the purposes specified in § 340.01(56)(a) and (am). Use of the strobe light will be permitted when children are being transported for any other purpose.

CLEARINGHOUSE RULE 98-167; *An order amending Trans 200.01 and creating Trans 200.055 related to the location for placement of utility work signs.* This rule establishes the specifications for the locations for placement of signs indicating the beginning and ending of a utility work area for the purposes of enforcing the "double fines" law.

CLEARINGHOUSE RULE 98-185; *Relating to demerit point assessment for operating after suspension and revocation offenses.* 1997 Wisconsin Act 84 requires the Department to assess three rather than six demerit points to drivers who are convicted of operating after suspension or revocation, or operating a commercial motor vehicle while disqualified or out of service. This rule simply conforms to statutory requirements.