



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2009 Wisconsin Act 64
[2009 Senate Bill 157]

**Driver Education Instruction:
Hazards of Railroad Highway
Grade Crossings**

CURRENT LAW

Under current law, the *Department of Public Instruction (DPI)*:

- Must approve driver education courses offered by school districts, county children with disabilities education boards, and technical college districts.
- Must establish minimum standards for driver education courses offered by private driver schools.
- ***May not approve a driver education course or establish driver education course standards unless*** the course or standards, among other things, acquaint students with the hazards posed by farm machinery and animals on highways and by railroad grade crossings and provides instruction in safely dealing with these hazards.

Current law also requires the *Technical College System Board (TCSB)* to approve courses of study for each program offered in technical college district schools, including driver education courses. ***TCSB may not approve a driver education course unless*** the course, among other things, acquaints students with the hazards posed by farm machinery and animals on highways and provides instruction in safely dealing with these hazards.

The *Department of Transportation (DOT)* licenses private driver schools, and ***DOT may not license a driver school unless*** its course of instruction includes the content required for TCSB approval of a driver education course.

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.state.wi.us/>.

2009 WISCONSIN ACT 64

2009 Wisconsin Act 64 requires *all approved driver education courses* to:

- Acquaint each student with the hazards posed by *railroad highway grade crossings*; and
- Provide at least 30 minutes of instruction in safely dealing with these hazards.

Effective date: 2009 Wisconsin Act 64 takes effect on March 1, 2010.

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DLS:jal