



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2009 Wisconsin Act 225
[2009 Senate Bill 392]

**Registration of Former Military
Vehicles**

CURRENT LAW

Under current law, an owner of a special interest vehicle that is 20 or more years old may, under specified circumstances, register the vehicle as a special interest vehicle. A special interest vehicle, commonly known as a “collector vehicle,” is a motor vehicle that has not been changed from its original manufacturer’s specifications and that is being preserved for its historic interest. Vehicles registered as special interest vehicles are issued distinctive registration plates, commonly known as “collector plates,” that identify the vehicle as a special interest vehicle owned by a Wisconsin vehicle collector and that display the vehicle owner’s collector’s identification number. A special interest vehicle may be reregistered for no additional fee if, with an exception, the vehicle is not operated on the highways during the month of January. Collector vehicles that are trucks may not haul material weighing more than 500 pounds.

Also under current law, the Department of Transportation (DOT) must refuse registration of any vehicle that is originally designed and manufactured for off-highway operation unless the vehicle meets certain federal motor vehicle safety standards.

2009 WISCONSIN ACT 225

2009 Wisconsin Act 225 allows former military vehicles to be registered as a type of “special interest vehicle.” The bill defines a “former military vehicle” to mean any of the following vehicles **if the vehicle is at least 25 years old**:

1. A high-mobility, all-terrain, four-wheel or six-wheel drive vehicle originally manufactured for military use and commonly known by the trade name of “Pinzgauer.”
2. A vehicle commonly known by the name of “Kaiser Jeep M715.”

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/>.

3. A high-mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle originally manufactured for use by the U.S. military forces and commonly known by the name of "Humvee" that, notwithstanding par. (am) (intro.), is **at least 22 years old**.
4. A six-wheel drive utility vehicle originally manufactured for use by the U.S. military forces during World War II, known by the acronym of "DUKW" and commonly referred to by the name of "Duck."

The Act also provides that any person who is the owner of a special interest vehicle **that is a former military vehicle, or that is not a former military vehicle and is 20 or more years old** at the time of making application for registration or transfer of title of the vehicle, and who, unless the owner is an historical society that is exempt from federal income taxes, owns, has registered in this state, and uses for regular transportation at least one vehicle that has regular registration plates may upon application register the vehicle as a special interest vehicle upon payment of a fee under par. (b). A former military vehicle may be registered under this paragraph notwithstanding s. 341.10 (6), Stats.

Effective date: 2009 Wisconsin Act 225 takes effect on August 1, 2010.

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DLS:jal