



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2013 Wisconsin Act 231
[2013 Assembly Bill 258]

**Maintenance and Removal of
Vegetation Obstructing the View of
Outdoor Advertising Signs**

Under current law, a person may apply to the Department of Transportation (DOT) for a permit to trim or remove vegetation obstructing outdoor advertising signs in the highway right-of-way. Prior law required a permittee who removes vegetation with a diameter of four inches or more measured at three feet off the ground to plant replacement vegetation as directed by the DOT.

Under 2013 Wisconsin Act, rather than planting replacement vegetation, a permittee must compensate the DOT \$200, adjusted annually for inflation, for each tree cut with a diameter of two inches or more, as measured at breast height. The Act also specifies that a permit to trim or remove vegetation obstructing the view of an outdoor advertising sign applies to a sign erected along the highway on the opposite side of the direction of travel if the sign face is visible and intended to be viewed from the direction of travel, except that a permit may not authorize trimming or removing vegetation in the median of a divided highway.

Effective date : The Act took effect on April 10, 2014, and initially applies to permits submitted to DOT on May 19, 2012.

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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.wisconsin.gov>.