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**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
ACT MEMO**

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**2013 Wisconsin Act 316**  
[2013 Assembly Bill 743]

**Operation of All-Terrain Vehicles  
and Utility Terrain Vehicles  
on Bridges**

Under **Wisconsin law**, a person may operate an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) or a utility terrain vehicle (UTV) on a highway to cross a bridge, culvert, or railroad right-of-way under certain conditions. However, under **prior law**, such operation was prohibited if the roadway was officially closed to ATV or UTV traffic.

**2013 Wisconsin Act 316** allows ATV or UTV operation on roadways officially closed to ATV or UTV traffic to cross a bridge that is not part of the Interstate Highway System and is 1,000 feet in length or less, if the operation is in compliance with ordinances adopted by the county and the city, village, or town in which the bridge is located. Such ordinances must require a person crossing a bridge to:

- Cross the bridge in the most direct manner practicable and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing.
- Stay as far to the right of the roadway or shoulder as practicable.
- Stop the vehicle prior to the crossing.
- Yield the right-of-way to other vehicles, pedestrians, and electric personal assistive mobility devices using the roadway or shoulder.
- Exit the highway as quickly and safely as practicable after crossing the bridge.

The Act also requires local governments adopting ordinances relating to ATVs or UTVs to send copies to the state patrol and to each local government with jurisdiction over a highway to which the ordinance applies.

**Effective date:** The Act took effect on April 18, 2014.

**Prepared by:** Michael Queensland, Staff Attorney

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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>.