



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2013 Senate Bill 279**

**Senate Amendment 1**

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### **CURRENT LAW**

Under current law, the Department of Transportation may issue annual, consecutive-month, or multiple-trip permits for vehicles that exceed statutory limits on size, weight, or load to transport loads near the Michigan-Wisconsin state line (Michigan border permits), which authorize:

1. The transportation of loads over any class of highway for a distance not to exceed 11 miles from the Michigan-Wisconsin state line.
2. The transportation of exclusively peeled or unpeeled forest products cut crosswise, wood chips, or forestry biomass anywhere upon U.S. Highway 2 in Iron County, Ashland County, Florence County, and certain parts of Bayfield County if the vehicle is traveling between Wisconsin and Michigan and does not violate length or weight limitations established under Michigan law.
3. The transportation of exclusively peeled or unpeeled forest products cut crosswise, wood chips, or forestry biomass upon U.S. Highway 2 from State Highway 13 in the City of Ashland through Hart Lake Road in Bayfield County.
4. The transportation of raw forest products or lumber on certain specified stretches of highway, including a portion of U.S. Highway 8 in Oneida and Forest Counties, if the vehicle does not violate Michigan law.

“Raw forest products” is defined as logs, pilings, posts, poles, cordwood products, wood chips, sawdust, pulpwood, intermediary lumber, fuel wood and Christmas trees not altered by a manufacturing process off the land, sawmill, or factory from which they are taken.

### **SENATE BILL 279**

Senate Bill 279 modifies the authority for vehicles operating under a Michigan border permit in the following ways:

- Provides that a vehicle operating under the second through fourth circumstances described above may transport raw forest products, lumber, and forestry biomass.
- Eliminates the requirement under the second circumstance described above that the vehicle must travel between Wisconsin and Michigan.
- Provides that a vehicle operating under the first three circumstances described above may not violate Michigan law.
- Authorizes vehicles operating under Michigan border permits to operate on additional segments of U.S. Highway 8.
- Provides that a vehicle operating under a Michigan border permit may operate unladen when returning from the delivery of a load, or operating to or from a point of fueling, servicing, or purchase or sale of the vehicle.

### **SENATE AMENDMENT 1**

Senate Amendment 1 specifies that a Michigan border permit may not authorize the operation of any vehicle or vehicle combination with a maximum gross weight in excess of 164,000 pounds.

### **BILL HISTORY**

Senator Petrowski offered Senate Amendment 1 on September 6, 2013. On September 26, 2013, the Senate Committee on Transportation, Public Safety, and Veterans and Military Affairs recommended adoption of Senate Amendment 1 and passage of Senate Bill 355, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0.

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