



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2017 Wisconsin Act 193
[2017 Assembly Bill 442]

**All-Terrain Vehicle Route
Signage**

2017 Wisconsin Act 193 makes changes to requirements for signs placed to mark all-terrain vehicle (ATV) routes.

Under state law, a town, village, city, or county (local government) may designate highways or sidewalks as ATV routes. In addition, it may authorize the operation of utility terrain vehicles on ATV routes. Rules promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) require that all ATV routes be marked by signs at the beginning of the route and at intervals along the route as needed to enable ATV operators to follow the route.

The Act provides that, if a local government designates **specific highways** within its jurisdiction as ATV routes, the local government is required to do one of the following:

- Erect a sign at each point on a highway where the ATV route begins and at each point where the ATV route intersects an ATV trail or a highway that is not designated as an ATV route;¹ or
- Erect a sign on each highway under its jurisdiction that crosses its territorial boundary in a position to be viewed by motorists as they enter the town, village, city, or county. The signs must alert motorists that all highways within the town, village, city, or county have been designated as ATV routes, except where otherwise indicated.²

Alternatively, the Act authorizes a local government to designate **all highways** within its territorial boundaries as ATV routes and to erect signs at the entrances to the local government

¹ The town, village, city, or county is not required to erect a sign at a point that is not more than one-half mile from a sign marking the same ATV route on the same highway.

² The town, village, city, or county shall erect signs as appropriate to indicate highways that are not designated as an ATV route.

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>.

alerting motorists of this designation. The Act provides that if a local government erects these entrance signs, DNR may not require it to erect or maintain additional signs along the ATV routes.

The Act also provides some additional sign placement authority for a local government that designates all highways under its jurisdiction as ATV routes. The Act allows such a local government to erect a sign on each highway under its jurisdiction at the point where that highway crosses its territorial boundary and enters another town, village, city, or county that does not designate the highway as an ATV route alerting motorists and ATV operators that the ATV route designation has ended. The local government may also designate a preferred route and erect signs marking the route.

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