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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

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**2017 Wisconsin Act 347**  
[2017 Assembly Bill 678]

**Obedience to  
Law Enforcement Vehicles**

### BACKGROUND

Very generally, state law<sup>1</sup> directs when a vehicle operator must stop his or her vehicle after receiving a visual or audible signal to stop the vehicle. Under prior law, a vehicle operator was prohibited, after having received a visual or audible signal to stop his or her vehicle from a **traffic officer** or **marked police vehicle**, from doing either of the following:

- Knowingly resisting the officer by failing to stop his or her vehicle as promptly as safety reasonably permits.
- Knowingly fleeing or attempting to elude any traffic officer by willful or wanton disregard of such signal so as to interfere with or endanger the operation of the police vehicle, the officer, or other vehicle or pedestrians. The operator is also prohibited from increasing the speed of the operator's vehicle or extinguishing the lights of the vehicle in an attempt to elude or flee.

### 2017 WISCONSIN ACT 347

Under 2017 Wisconsin Act 347, a vehicle operator is prohibited from knowingly resisting, fleeing, or attempting to elude any officer as described above, after having received a visible or audible signal to stop his or her vehicle from a **traffic officer, federal law enforcement officer, or marked or unmarked police vehicle that the operator knows or reasonably should know is being operated by a law enforcement officer.**

*Effective date:* April 18, 2018.

*Prepared by:* Melissa Schmidt, Senior Staff Attorney

May 1, 2018

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<sup>1</sup> State law also generally requires a vehicle operator to yield the right-of-way to any approaching authorized emergency vehicle giving audible signal by siren. [s. 346.19, Stats.]

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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>.