
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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2019 Wisconsin Act 50
[2019 Senate Bill 86]

**Registration and Operation of
Autocycles**

BACKGROUND

Prior law provided for two types of motorcycles. Type 1 was defined as a motor vehicle that is either: (a) designed and built with two wheels in tandem and a seat for the operator, and may be modified to have no more than three wheels by attaching a sidecar to one side of the wheels in tandem without changing the location of the power source; or (b) designed and built to have no more than three wheels, seating for the operator and no more than three passengers, and does not have the operator area enclosed. Type 2 was defined as a motor vehicle designed and built to have at least three wheels in contact with the ground, a curb weight of less than 1,500 pounds, and a passenger and operator area with sides permanently enclosed with rigid construction and a top which may be convertible.

The biennial registration fee for a motorcycle is \$23. To operate a type 1 motorcycle, a person must hold a license that specifically authorizes the operation of Class M vehicles.

2019 WISCONSIN ACT 50

2019 Wisconsin Act 50 creates a definition for “autocycle” that includes certain vehicles that were defined as type 2 motorcycles under prior law. Under the act, an autocycle is “a motor vehicle that has 3 wheels in contact with the ground, designed with seating that does not require operators or any occupants to straddle or sit astride it, has a steering wheel, and is originally manufactured to meet federal motor vehicle safety standards for motorcycles under 49 CFR part 571.” The act also redefines “motorcycle” to mean “a motor vehicle originally manufactured with motive power, a seat or saddle requiring the rider to sit astride, not more than 3 wheels in contact with the ground, steering controlled by handlebars, and acceleration and braking controlled with handlebar and foot controls and that is capable of speeds in excess of 30 miles per hour.”

The act provides that an autocycle may be registered for \$45 annually. Under the act, a person may operate an autocycle with a regular Class D license. Finally, the act allows a motor vehicle dealer engaged in the sale of autocycles with a dealership license to continue selling autocycles without having to acquire a different type of dealership license.

Effective date: A provision specifying that an autocycle is a Class D vehicle and may be operated with a Class D license took effect on November 24, 2019. The remaining provisions of the act take effect on May 1, 2020.

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