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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## ACT MEMO

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**2019 Wisconsin Act 163**  
[2019 Senate Bill 523]

**Commercial Driver License  
Waiver for Certain Farm  
Operation**

### **BACKGROUND**

Under state law, a commercial driver's license (CDL) is generally required to operate a commercial motor vehicle (CMV). Prior law provided an exception to this requirement that allowed a farmer to operate a CMV within 150 miles of the farmer's farm to transport agricultural products, farm machinery, or farm supplies, including hazardous materials requiring placarding, to or from a farm.

### **2019 WISCONSIN ACT 163**

2019 Wisconsin Act 163 expands the types of operators who are authorized to operate under the exception, described above, to include a farmer's family member or employee. It also generally removes the 150-mile limitation on operation under this exception to allow a farmer, member of a farmer's family, or employee of a farmer to operate a CMV without a CDL anywhere in the state to transport agricultural products, farm machinery, or farm supplies, to or from a farm. Transportation of hazardous materials requiring placarding, as well as any operation from the farm to a place located outside of the state, remain subject to the 150-mile limitation.

**Effective date:** March 5, 2020

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