
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



Prepared by: Anna Henning, Senior Staff Attorney

March 16, 2020

2019 Wisconsin Act 183 [2019 Senate Bill 583]

Regulation of ATVs and UTVs

2019 Wisconsin Act 183 makes various changes relating to the regulation of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and utility terrain vehicles (UTVs). Specifically, the act does all of the following:

- Modifies the definitions of “UTV” and “ATV” to remove a requirement to contain low-pressure tires and to specify how vehicle width is measured, and to exclude ATVs, golf carts, and certain other low-speed vehicles from the “UTV” definition.
- Removes a minimum weight requirement for UTVs with three or more wheels and increases the maximum width for three-wheeled UTVs.
- Specifies that width restrictions and tire requirements do not apply to the operation of a ATV or UTV on private property.¹
- Requires an operator to comply with applicable highway speed limits and with stop signs and other signs on trails.
- Prohibits certain types of lights and requires bright lights to be dimmed near oncoming traffic.
- Provides exemptions for certain ATVs and UTVs engaged in emergency situations.
- Makes certain funding from the ATV and UTV gas tax and registration fees available for aid to nonprofit organizations for the production of maps, digital information, communications equipment, and signs.
- Authorizes state funding for winter trail maintenance.
- Specifies that actions for intentional false statements on ATV and UTV applications may be tried in the county of residence, in the county of purchase, or in the county where the application was made.

Effective date: March 5, 2020

AH:mca;jal

¹ The Governor partially vetoed provisions of the enrolled act that also exempted ATVs and UTVs from certain passenger restrictions while operated on private property.