

CHAPTER 189 , Laws of 1981

AN ACT to create 30.29 of the statutes, relating to operation of motor vehicles in the navigable waters of the state and creating a penalty.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 30.29 of the statutes is created to read:

30.29 Operation of motor vehicles in waters prohibited. (1) **DEFINITION.** As used in this section, "motor vehicle" has the meaning designated under s. 340.01 (35) except that this term does not include snowmobiles.

(2) **PROHIBITION.** Except as provided under sub. (3), no person may operate a motor vehicle in any navigable waters of the state.

(3) **EXCEPTIONS.** This section does not apply to:

(a) *Stream crossing.* A person operating a motor vehicle to cross a stream by use of a bridge, culvert, ford or similar structure if the crossing is in the most direct manner practical, if the crossing is from a highway or private road or from an established trail and if the person operates the motor vehicle at the minimum speed required to maintain controlled forward motion of the motor vehicle.

(b) *Agriculture activities.* A person operating a motor vehicle while the person is engaged in agricultural use, as defined under s. 91.01 (1).

(c) *Department activities.* The department or any agent of the department operating a motor vehicle while the person is engaged in activities authorized by the department.

(d) *Activities for which a permit is issued.* A person or agent of a person who is issued a permit by the department while the person or agent is engaged in activities related to the purpose for which the permit is issued.

(e) *Amphibious vehicles.* A person operating an amphibious motor vehicle registered as a boat with the department if the amphibious vehicle enters the water at a boat launch or a ford.

(f) *Boat launching.* A person operating a motor vehicle to launch or load a boat, canoe or other watercraft.

(g) *On frozen waters.* A person operating a motor vehicle on the surface of any navigable waters which are frozen.

(h) *Access to frozen waters.* A person operating a motor vehicle to cross the bed or banks of a navigable water in order to reach the surface of any navigable waters which are frozen if the crossing is in the most direct manner practical, if the crossing is from a highway or private road or from an established trail and if the person operates the motor vehicle at the minimum speed required to maintain controlled forward motion of the motor vehicle.

(4) **PENALTY.** A person who violates this section shall forfeit \$50 for the first offense and shall forfeit not more than \$100 upon conviction of the same offense a 2nd or subsequent time within one year.
