



State of Wisconsin
2005 - 2006 LEGISLATURE

LRBs0551/2
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**ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1,
TO 2005 ASSEMBLY BILL 923**

February 21, 2006 – Offered by Representative ALBERS.

1 **AN ACT** *to renumber* 167.26 (1); *to renumber and amend* 167.26 (2) and 167.26
2 (3); *to amend* 167.26 (1m) and 167.26 (6); and *to create* 167.26 (1b), 167.26 (2)
3 (a) 2., 167.26 (2m) and 167.26 (3) (b) and (c) of the statutes; **relating to:**
4 warning methods for ice holes or openings in streams, ponds, and lakes, liability
5 resulting from the creation of ice holes or openings, and providing a penalty.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** 167.26 (1) of the statutes is renumbered 167.26 (1g).

7 **SECTION 2.** 167.26 (1b) of the statutes is created to read:

8 167.26 (1b) In this section:

9 (a) “Nonprofit membership corporation” means a corporation as described in
10 s. 779.70 (1).

11 (b) “Qualified lake association” means an association that meets the
12 qualifications under s. 281.68 (3m) (a).

1 (c) "Water quality project" means a project that improves water quality,
2 including a project that improves fish habitat or that reduces or prevents any of the
3 following:

- 4 1. Blue-green algae.
- 5 2. The release of anoxic gases or nutrients.

6 **SECTION 3.** 167.26 (1m) of the statutes is amended to read:

7 167.26 (1m) Instead of the requirements under sub. (1) (1g), any person who
8 removes ice or causes its removal from Lake Butte des Morts, Lake Poygan, Lake
9 Winnebago or Lake Winneconne for the spearing of sturgeon may mark the opening
10 made by the removal without using fencing if the person uses at least 2 strips of wood
11 that protrude at least 3 feet above the surface of the ice. The strips of wood may not
12 exceed approximately 1.5 inches in width and approximately 0.25 inch in thickness.

13 **SECTION 4.** 167.26 (2) of the statutes is renumbered 167.26 (2) (a) (intro.) and
14 amended to read:

15 167.26 (2) (a) (intro.) Any ~~Instead of the requirements under sub. (1g), any~~
16 ~~person creating ice holes by aeration of water may, in lieu of the requirements of sub.~~
17 ~~(1), erect~~ do any of the following:

18 1. Erect and maintain a barricade around such the holes consisting of uprights
19 that are spaced every 25 feet or less, at adequate intervals to maintain the barricade
20 and that are connected by a continuous rope, cord, or similar material placed 3 1/2
21 at least 2.5 feet and not more than 4.5 feet off the surface of the ice.

22 (b) The connecting rope, cord, or similar material specified in par. (a) 1. shall
23 have reflectorized, fluorescent, or lighted ribbon or tape or other reflectorized devices
24 attached to it, so as to be highly visible, and shall be of sufficient strength to permit
25 retrieval of the barricade following melting of the ice.

1 (c) Any person erecting such a barricade or warning mechanism under this
2 subsection shall remove the barricade and all parts thereof from the ice or water of
3 the barricade or mechanism immediately after the ice has melted.

4 **SECTION 5.** 167.26 (2) (a) 2. of the statutes is created to read:

5 167.26 (2) (a) 2. Erect and maintain a visual warning mechanism that is highly
6 visible and that is reflectorized, fluorescent, or lighted.

7 **SECTION 6.** 167.26 (2m) of the statutes is created to read:

8 167.26 (2m) (a) Instead of the requirements under subs. (1g) and (2), any public
9 inland lake protection and rehabilitation district or any nonprofit membership
10 corporation that is creating ice holes for a lake by aeration of water for purposes of
11 a water quality project that has been approved by the department of natural
12 resources may provide alternative warning methods by doing all of the following:

13 1. Posting highly visible warning notices at each shoreline area through which
14 the public has access to the lake.

15 2. Providing a written warning notice to each owner of riparian property on the
16 lake.

17 (b) Each warning notice placed by a public inland lake protection and
18 rehabilitation district or a nonprofit membership corporation under par. (a) 1. shall
19 meet all of the following requirements:

20 1. The size, lettering, and format of each notice shall be designed so as to make
21 the notice readable by the public at a distance of 60 feet.

22 2. Each notice shall contain the wording "DANGER—OPEN WATER,"
23 "WARNING—ICE HOLES," or "DANGER—THIN ICE" or wording of a similar
24 nature.

1 3. Each notice shall replicate the wording required under subd. 2. so that the
2 wording on each notice is visible from the shoreline and from the water.

3 4. Each notice shall be made of durable material and lettering and shall be
4 replaced as necessary so that the notice remains readable throughout the winter
5 season.

6 5. The notices shall be placed no later than December 15 of each winter season.

7 (c) The written notices provided to each owner of riparian property by a public
8 inland lake protection and rehabilitation district or a nonprofit membership
9 corporation under par. (a) 2. shall be provided no later than December 15 of each
10 winter season.

11 **SECTION 7.** 167.26 (3) of the statutes is renumbered 167.26 (3) (a) and amended
12 to read:

13 167.26 (3) (a) Persons Except as provided in par. (b), a person barricading or
14 marking an ice holes hole or opening in the manner specified in this section, or
15 erecting a warning device or posting a notice for an ice hole or opening in the manner
16 specified in this section, shall not be liable for damages suffered by persons who enter
17 the barricaded or marked area be exempt from liability for injury to or the death of
18 any person or for damage to any property that results from creating the ice hole or
19 opening.

20 **SECTION 8.** 167.26 (3) (b) and (c) of the statutes are created to read:

21 167.26 (3) (b) Except as provided in par. (c), a member of a qualified lake
22 association or of a nonprofit membership corporation shall be exempt from any
23 liability incurred by the qualified lake association or nonprofit membership
24 corporation in creating an ice hole or opening that is subject to the barricading,
25 fencing, or warning requirements under this section.

1 (c) Any riparian property owner who is aware of the existence of an ice hole or
2 opening in the stream, pond, or lake to which his or her riparian property abuts shall
3 not be exempt from liability as provided in par. (a) if the owner fails to warn a person
4 to whom the owner has given permission to cross the property in order to have access
5 to the stream, pond, or lake by doing one of the following:

6 1. Directly warning the person of the existence of the ice hole or opening.

7 2. Posting a warning notice on the property that complies with the
8 requirements specified under sub. (2m) (b) 1. to 5.

9 **SECTION 9.** 167.26 (6) of the statutes is amended to read:

10 167.26 (6) ~~Persons~~ Any person violating this section sub. (1g), (1m), (2), or (2m)
11 shall be imprisoned for not more than 6 months or fined not more than \$100. Any
12 person who removes a barricade, fencing, a warning notice, or a warning mechanism
13 or other barrier or marking that complies with this section during the period
14 beginning with December 15 of a given year and ending on March 30 of the following
15 year may be imprisoned for not more than 6 months or fined not more than \$100.

16 (END)