



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2003 Wisconsin Act 192 [2003 Assembly Bill 573]	Operation of Off-Road Utility Vehicles
2003 Acts: www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/	Act Memos: www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm

2003 Wisconsin Act 192 specifically permits the operation of off-road utility vehicles on certain roadways of the state. The Act defines “off-road utility vehicle” as a motor vehicle that is designed and constructed to carry one or two persons *and* be used for collecting residential and commercial solid waste (such as garbage, yard waste, and recyclable materials), landscaping, or incidental street maintenance. As defined in the Act, an off-road utility vehicle must meet the equipment standards under state law for a Type 2 automobile or Type 2 motorcycle or the federal equipment standards for a low-speed vehicle.

2003 Wisconsin Act 192 permits off-road utility vehicles to be operated on all roadways in this state that have a speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less, but only if the off-road utility vehicle is being used to collect residential or commercial solid waste or is being used for landscaping or incidental street maintenance. In addition, the vehicle must be operated by a person employed by, or under contract with, the state or a local governmental unit. The Act specifically prohibits the operation of off-road utility vehicles on any roadway having a speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour. A person who violates any of these provisions relating to the operation of off-road utility vehicles may be required to forfeit not less than \$30 nor more than \$300.

2003 Wisconsin Act 192 also does all of the following:

1. Exempts off-road utility vehicles from vehicle registration by the Department of Transportation.
2. Requires an operator of an off-road utility vehicle to have a valid operator’s license or instruction permit authorizing the operation of “Class D” vehicles (primarily automobiles, but also any other motor vehicles that are not commercial motor vehicles or Type 1 motorcycles).

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents.

3. Requires the operators of off-road utility vehicles to observe the rules of the road, including this state's implied consent law and statutory provisions relating to drunken driving, and subjects violators of those rules to the same penalties as those that apply to violations committed while operating other "Class D" vehicles.

4. Exempts off-road utility vehicles from motor vehicle emission limitations and testing.

Effective Date: The effective date of 2003 Wisconsin Act 192 is April 22, 2004.

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April 12, 2004

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