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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

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<b>2003 Wisconsin Act 74</b> [2003 Assembly Bill 375]	<b>Penalties for Leaving the Scene of an Accident</b>
2003 Acts: <a href="http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/">www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/</a>	Act Memos: <a href="http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm">www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm</a>

2003 Wisconsin Act 74 increases the penalties for leaving the scene of an accident involving a death or injury.

### **BACKGROUND**

Under current law, the operator of any vehicle involved in an accident resulting in injury or death of any person must immediately stop the vehicle at the scene of the accident or as close to the scene as possible and remain at the scene of the accident until he or she has done the following:

- a. Given his or her name, address, and the registration number of the vehicle he or she is driving to the person struck or to the operator or occupant of or person attending any vehicle collided with.
- b. Upon request and if available, exhibited his or her driver's license to the person struck or to the operator or occupant of or person attending any vehicle collided with.
- c. Rendered reasonable assistance to any person injured, including carrying, or making arrangements for carrying, the person to a physician or hospital for medical treatment if it is apparent that treatment is necessary or if the injured person requests to be taken to a physician or hospital.

### **WISCONSIN ACT 74**

Wisconsin Act 74 modifies the penalties for leaving the scene of an accident if the accident involved death or injury to a person. Under the Act, if the accident involved death to a person, the penalty is increased from a Class H felony to a Class D felony. A Class D felony is punishable by imprisonment not to exceed 25 years and a fine not to exceed \$100,000. If the accident involved injury to a person and the person suffered great bodily harm, the penalty is increased from a Class I felony to a

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

Class E felony. A Class E felony is punishable by imprisonment not to exceed 15 years and a fine not to exceed \$50,000.

***Effective Date:*** The Act takes effect November 27, 2003.

***Prepared by:*** Anne Sappenfield, Senior Staff Attorney

November 18, 2003

AS:jal;ksm