



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

**2005 Wisconsin Act 209**  
[2005 Assembly Bill 840]

**Snowmobile Speed Limits**

Under current statutes, with certain exceptions, there are no statutory speed restrictions imposed on the operation of snowmobiles unless they are being operated on or adjacent to the paved portion of a highway. In those cases, the highway speed limit applies.

2005 Wisconsin Act 209 prohibits the operation of a snowmobile anywhere at a speed exceeding 55 miles per hour during the hours of darkness. The current statutes define “hours of darkness” to be the time between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise and any other time when there is not enough natural light to clearly see a person or vehicle 500 feet away.

The speed limit created by the Act sunsets on the first day of the 12<sup>th</sup> month after the effective date of the Act.

*Effective Date:* July 1, 2006.

*Prepared by:* Mark C. Patronsky, Senior Staff Attorney

June 13, 2006

MCP:rv:jal

---

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.