



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2009 Wisconsin Act 226
[2009 Senate Bill 456]

**Registration Plates Supporting
Motorcycle Safety; Harley-
Davidson**

CURRENT LAW

Under current law, any group or organization may apply to the Department of Transportation (DOT) for designation as an authorized special group. If the application is approved, members of the authorized special group may obtain special distinguishing registration plates for certain vehicles, including automobiles and motor homes, that are owned or leased by special group members. A fee, in addition to the regular registration fee for the particular kind of vehicle, is charged for the issuance or reissuance of most special plates. Before October 2, 1998, authorized special groups whose members may obtain special plates were specifically enumerated in state law. With certain exceptions, current law provides that specific enumeration in state law of authorized special groups is limited to those special groups enumerated before October 2, 1998.

2009 WISCONSIN ACT 226

2009 Wisconsin Act 226 establishes an authorized special group specifically enumerated in state law for persons interested in supporting motorcycle safety. In addition to the regular vehicle registration fee, special group members are required to pay a \$15 fee for issuance or reissuance of the special plates and an additional \$25 annual fee that, after paying applicable licensing fees, provides funds for the following activities under the Type 1 motorcycle, moped, and motor bicycle safety program administered by DOT: evaluation of basic rider education courses; conducting public workshops, rallies, and programs related to Type 1 motorcycle safety and training; and making grants for providing motorcycle riding courses.

The Act requires these special group plates to: (1) display a bar and shield logo associated with Harley-Davidson, Inc., on the left portion of the plates; and (2) display the words “share the road” on the bottom portion of the plate.

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/>.

The plates may not be issued until after DOT has obtained licensing rights for this logo. Also, the DOT must consult with the chief trademark officer of Harley-Davidson Michigan, LLC before specifying the design for the applicable special group plate.

Effective date: 2009 Wisconsin Act 226 takes effect on December 1, 2010.

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DLS:jal