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**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
ACT MEMO**

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<b>2015 Wisconsin Act 104</b> [2015 Assembly Bill 206]	<b>Pedestrian Traffic Control Signals</b>
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**BACKGROUND**

Prior law specified the actions that a pedestrian was permitted to take at a roadway when a traffic control signal displayed the word “Walk” or the words “Don’t Walk.” However, prior law did not specify the actions that a pedestrian was permitted to take when a traffic control signal displayed common symbols such as a walking person or an upraised hand.

**2015 WISCONSIN ACT 104**

In order to specify the actions that a pedestrian may take at a roadway when a traffic control signal displays a common symbol, 2015 Act 104 (the Act) creates two new terms. First, the Act defines a “pedestrian signal authorizing crossing” as a signal displaying “Walk,” a walking person symbol, or any other symbol approved under the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* adopted by the Department of Transportation (DOT). Second, the Act defines a “pedestrian signal limiting crossing” as a signal displaying “Don’t Walk,” an upraised hand symbol, or any other symbol approved under the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* adopted by DOT.

Under the Act, a pedestrian is permitted to cross the roadway when a signal displays a pedestrian signal authorizing crossing. Under the Act, when a signal displays a pedestrian signal limiting crossing, a pedestrian is prohibited from beginning to cross the roadway but is permitted to complete a crossing begun while the signal displayed a pedestrian signal authorizing crossing.

**Effective date:** The Act takes effect on November 13, 2015.

**Prepared by:** Zach Ramirez, Staff Attorney

November 12, 2015

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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 at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.