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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## ACT MEMO

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March 16, 2020 (Revised June 11, 2020)

### 2019 Wisconsin Act 183 [2019 Senate Bill 583]

### Regulation of ATVs and UTVs

2019 Wisconsin Act 183 makes various changes relating to the regulation of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and utility terrain vehicles (UTVs). Specifically, the act does all of the following:

- Modifies the definitions of “UTV” and “ATV” to remove a requirement to contain low-pressure tires and to specify how vehicle width is measured, and to exclude ATVs, golf carts, and certain other low-speed vehicles from the “UTV” definition.
- Removes a minimum weight requirement for UTVs with three or more wheels and increases the maximum width for three-wheeled UTVs.
- Specifies that width restrictions and tire requirements do not apply to the operation of a ATV or UTV on private property.
- Prohibits operating an ATV with a passenger in any part of the ATV that is not designed or intended to be used by passengers.<sup>1</sup>
- Requires an operator to comply with applicable highway speed limits and with stop signs and other signs on trails.
- Prohibits certain types of lights and requires bright lights to be dimmed near oncoming traffic.
- Provides exemptions from certain passenger restrictions and equipment requirements for government-owned or -leased ATVs and UTVs engaged in emergency situations.
- Makes certain funding from the ATV and UTV gas tax and registration fees available for aid to nonprofit organizations for the production of maps, digital information, communications equipment, and signs.
- Authorizes state funding for winter trail maintenance.
- Specifies that actions for intentional false statements on ATV and UTV applications may be tried in the county of residence, in the county of purchase, or in the county where the application was made.

**Effective date:** March 5, 2020

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<sup>1</sup> Prior law, retained by the act, provided a similar exception for UTVs. The Governor partially vetoed portions of the enrolled act that would have made the passenger restrictions for ATVs and UTVs inapplicable on private property.