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**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
AMENDMENT MEMO**

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**2003 Assembly Bill 280**

**Assembly Substitute  
Amendment 1**

*Memo published:* June 26, 2003

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*Current law* provides that no person may display on a motor vehicle a registration plate, insert tag, decal, or other evidence of registration not issued for that motor vehicle. Any person who does so may be required to forfeit not more than \$500. Also under current law, subject to one exception, no person may transfer to another person or offer for sale a registration plate issued by the Department of Transportation. Any person who does so is guilty of a Class H felony and may be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than six years, or both.

*Assembly Bill 280* creates specific prohibitions against displaying a stolen registration plate on a motor vehicle or possessing, selling, or offering to sell a stolen registration plate. Under the bill, violators may be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than nine months, or both.

The bill provides that a person charged with displaying a stolen registration plate or possessing, selling, or offering to sell a stolen registration plate may raise the affirmative defense that he or she did not know and could not, by reasonable effort, have known that the registration plate was stolen. Any person who raises this affirmative defense must prove it by clear, satisfactory, and convincing evidence.

*Assembly Substitute Amendment 1* is the same as the bill except that the substitute amendment applies to a registration plate, insert tag, decal, or other evidence of registration, while the bill applies only to a registration plate.

### **LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

*Assembly Substitute Amendment 1* was offered and recommended for adoption by the Assembly Committee on Transportation by a vote of Ayes, 16; Noes, 0 on June 19, 2003.

The Assembly Committee on Transportation recommended passage of the bill, as amended, by unanimous consent.

PC:ksm