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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

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**2003 Assembly Bill 419**

**Assembly Substitute  
Amendment 1**

*Memo published:* September 15, 2003

*Contact:* Philip G. Cardis, Staff Attorney (267-0683)

Under **current law**, if the owner of a vehicle fails to pay a citation for a nonmoving traffic violation (parking ticket) or appear in court in response to the parking ticket, the authority may notify the Department of Transportation (DOT) to suspend the registration of the vehicle that was ticketed or to refuse registration of any vehicle owned by the violator or both. Vehicle registration suspension or refusal continues until the person appears in court in response to the parking ticket or pays the amount of the parking ticket and costs, if any, of suspending or refusing vehicle registration.

**Assembly Bill 419** permits the vehicle registration suspension or refusal mechanism to be used by an authority in cases of unpaid towing and storage charges associated with a parking ticket. The bill provides that, if the owner of a vehicle fails to pay outstanding towing and storage charges associated with a parking ticket, the authority may notify DOT to suspend the registration of that vehicle or to refuse registration of any vehicle owned by the vehicle owner or both. Such vehicle registration suspension or refusal continues until the vehicle owner pays the outstanding towing and storage charges and costs, if any, of suspending or refusing vehicle registration.

**Assembly Substitute Amendment 1** makes the following changes to Assembly Bill 419:

- Provides that notices relating to unpaid towing and storage charges are considered separate transactions for purposes of the traffic violation and registration program. In other words, two separate transactions are required: (1) for an unpaid parking citation; and (2) for the unpaid towing and storage charges.
- Provides that the bill first applies to people who *incur* towing and storage charges after the bill becomes effective.
- Establishes a delayed effective date of February 1, 2004, or on the first day of the first month beginning after publication, whichever is later.

- Provides a cap of 20 days on outstanding storage charges under the bill.
- Provides that Assembly Bill 419 is *void* unless 2003 Assembly Bill 467 becomes law on or before the effective date of Assembly Bill 419.

**Legislative History**

On September 11, 2003, the Assembly Committee on Transportation introduced Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 by unanimous consent.

The Assembly Committee on Transportation recommended for adoption Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 and passage of the bill, as amended, by a vote of Ayes, 13; Noes, 1.

PGC:jal;ksm