



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2003 Assembly Bill 589

**Assembly
Amendment 1**

Memo published: December 23, 2003

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

Under **current law**, any city, village, or town (municipality) or any county may enact an ordinance prohibiting unregistered motor vehicles and providing for the immobilization, impoundment, and disposal of such vehicles. An “unregistered motor vehicle” is defined as any motor vehicle located upon a highway that is currently not registered and that reasonably appears to have been unregistered for at least 30 days. Current law provides that a person charged under a local ordinance with having an unregistered motor vehicle may not be convicted or subject to costs for immobilizing or impounding the vehicle if, at the time of the offense, the vehicle was exempt from registration in this state or a complete application for registration had already been submitted to the Department of Transportation (DOT).

Assembly Bill 589 changes the definition of “unregistered motor vehicle” so that it applies to any motor vehicle located upon a highway that is not displaying valid license plates, a temporary operation plate, or (for vehicles registered with DOT on a quarterly or consecutive monthly basis) other evidence of registration, rather than to a motor vehicle that is currently not registered and which reasonably appears to have been unregistered for at least 30 days. The bill eliminates the provision that specifies that a person may not be convicted of violating an ordinance or subject to immobilization or impoundment costs if, at the time of the offense, the vehicle was exempt from registration in this state or a complete registration application had already been submitted to DOT. Finally, the bill provides that parking enforcers who are employed by or under contract with a municipality or county or the state may enforce such ordinances.

Assembly Amendment 1 modifies the bill in the following manner:

- Modifies the definition of “parking enforcer” to exclude contract parking enforcers for a municipality or county or the state. Therefore, a “parking enforcer” is defined to mean “a person who enforces nonmoving traffic violations and who is employed by any municipality or county or by the state.”

- Modifies the definition of “unregistered motor vehicle” to include a 31-day grace period before a motor vehicle could be deemed “unregistered” and subject to towing.

Legislative History

On December 16, 2003, the Assembly Committee on Transportation recommended for adoption Assembly Amendment 1 by a vote of Ayes, 15; Noes, 0.

The Assembly Committee on Transportation recommended passage of the bill, as amended, by a vote of Ayes, 15; Noes, 0.

PGC:rv;jal