



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2011 Assembly Bill 388

**Assembly Amendments
1 and 2**

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Under *current law*, the Department of Transportation (DOT) may issue annual or consecutive month permits for the transportation of raw forest products in vehicle combinations (i.e., a tractor and trailer) having a gross weight not exceeding 98,000 pounds if the vehicle combination has six or more axles and meets other criteria (RS permit). “Raw forest products” includes logs, poles, cordwood, wood chips, sawdust, and pulpwood. A vehicle combination operated under an RS permit cannot be operated on an interstate highway or any highway or bridge with a posted weight limit less than the vehicle combination’s weight. In issuing an overweight permit, DOT may impose reasonable restrictions on the permittee as DOT deems necessary for the safety of travel and protection of the highways. Additionally, DOT or a local highway authority may impose special weight limits on highways to prevent serious damage to the roadbed.

2011 Assembly Bill 388 prohibits DOT from imposing any condition or limitation on an RS permit in connection with the thawing of frozen highways that are local highways (county and municipal highways that are not connecting highways). However, the operation of a vehicle combination under an RS permit is subject to posted weight limits on local highways. The bill would take effect on the first day of the third month beginning after publication.

Assembly Amendment 1 prohibits DOT from suspending an RS permit in connection with the thawing of frozen highways that are not state trunk highways.

Assembly Amendment 2 removes the delayed effective date with the result that the bill would take effect on the day after publication.

Legislative History

Assembly Amendments 1 and 2 were offered by Representative Mursau. On January 31, 2012, the Assembly Committee on Transportation recommended adoption of Assembly Amendments 1 and 2 on a vote of Ayes, 13; Noes, 0. The committee then recommended passage of Assembly Bill 388, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 13; Noes, 0.

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