



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2013 Assembly Bill 258

Senate Amendment 1

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2013 Assembly Bill 258 modifies the permit system for the maintenance and removal by sign owners of vegetation obstructing signs in the highway right-of-way.

Assembly Bill 258

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is responsible for maintaining the rights-of-way of highways that are under its jurisdiction. As a part of this responsibility, the DOT administers a permit system for the maintenance and removal by sign owners of vegetation obstructing the view of signs.

Assembly Bill 258 makes several changes to this permit system. Under current law, a permittee who removes vegetation with a diameter of four inches or more measured at three feet off the ground must plant replacement vegetation as directed by the DOT. The bill specifies that, rather than planting replacement vegetation, a permittee must compensate the DOT \$140, adjusted annually for inflation, for each tree cut with a diameter of four inches or more. The bill also specifies that a permit for the trimming or removal of vegetation applies to a sign intended to be viewed by those traveling on the opposite side of the highway (known as a "cross-vista" sign).

Senate Amendment 1

Senate Amendment 1 specifies that a permit may not authorize trimming or removing vegetation in the median of a divided highway. It also reduces the minimum size of vegetation for which the DOT must be compensated from four inches to two inches, as measured at breast height, and increases the compensation to \$200 per tree.

Bill History

The bill was passed on a voice vote without amendment in the Assembly on October 8, 2013. On January 30, 2014, Senator Tiffany offered Senate Amendment 1. On February 12, 2014, the Senate Committee on Transportation, Public Safety, and Veterans and Military Affairs recommended adoption of Senate Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 4; Noes, 1. On the same day, the committee also recommended concurrence as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 3; Noes, 2.

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