



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2015 Assembly Bill 558

Assembly Amendments 1 & 2

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2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 558

The bill makes changes to state law relating to permits issued by the Department of Transportation authorizing the operation of vehicles that exceed weight and length limits on certain highways. Specifically, the bill clarifies and implements the federal weight grandfathering provisions for both the I-39 and I-41 corridors.

Under federal law, no motor vehicle may exceed specified weight limits on interstate highways. An exemption exists for portions of I-39 and I-41, allowing the operation of vehicles that would have been allowed to operate on those highways prior to their designation as interstate highways.

Under state law, the portion of I-41 that is exempt from the federal weight limits is defined as the "I-41 corridor." The bill creates a similar provision for the I-39 corridor, which is defined as that portion of I-39 between I-94 near the City of Portage and State Highway 29 south of the City of Wausau. The bill also replaces numerous references to the highway section that is now defined as the "I-39 corridor" with the defined term.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 removes the prohibition on a specific information sign being erected within any county having a population over 500,000. The amendment also increases the number of specific information signs that may be erected along an approach to an interchange or intersection for each category of motorist service from one sign to up to four signs.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 2

Assembly Amendment 2 specifies that weight limit exemptions for implements of husbandry and agriculture commercial vehicles do not apply on interstate highways, except for an implement of husbandry operated on the I-41 corridor.

The amendment also provides that, in addition to the I-41 corridor, a permit for the transportation of raw forest products may be issued for the portion of the I-39 corridor between State Highway 34 in the Town of Knowlton and State Highway 29 south of the City of Wausau.

BILL HISTORY

Assembly Amendment 1 was introduced by Representative Loudenbeck and Representative Spiros on January 13, 2016. Assembly Amendment 2 was introduced by Representative Spiros on January 20, 2016. On February 2, 2016, the Assembly Committee on Transportation recommended adoption of Assembly Amendments 1 and 2, on votes of Ayes, 14; Noes 0. On the same day, the committee recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 15; Noes 0.

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