



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2017 Assembly Bill 442

Assembly Amendment 1

Memo published: September 17, 2017

Contact: Steve McCarthy, Staff Attorney

2017 ASSEMBLY BILL 442

The bill makes changes to requirements for signs placed to mark all-terrain vehicle (ATV) routes.

Under current law, a town, village, city, or county may designate highways or sidewalks as ATV routes. In addition, it may authorize the operation of utility terrain vehicles on ATV routes. Rules promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) require that all ATV routes be marked by signs at the beginning of the route and at intervals along the route as needed to enable ATV operators to follow the route.

The bill provides that, if a local government designates specific highways within its territorial boundaries as ATV routes, the local government is required to erect a sign at each point on a highway where the ATV route begins and at each point where the ATV route intersects a highway that is not part of the route.

Alternatively, the bill authorizes a local government to designate all highways within its territorial boundaries as ATV routes and to erect signs at the entrances to the political subdivision alerting motorists of this designation. The bill also provides that if a political subdivision erects these entrance signs, DNR may not require it to erect or maintain additional signs along the ATV routes.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

The amendment provides that a town, village, city, or county's authority to designate highways as ATV routes is limited only to highways under the local government's jurisdiction rather than within its territorial boundaries.

The amendment also provides that, if a local government designates some specific highways as ATV routes, it must either:

- Erect a sign at each point on a highway where the ATV route begins and at each point where the ATV route intersects an ATV trail or a highway that is not designated as an ATV route; or
- Erect a sign on each highway under its jurisdiction that crosses its territorial boundary in a position to be viewed by motorists as they enter the town, village, city, or county. The signs shall alert motorists that all highways within the town, village, city, or county have been designated as ATV routes, except where otherwise indicated.

Lastly, the amendment provides some additional sign placement authority for a town, village, city, or county that designates all highways under its jurisdiction as ATV routes. Specifically, the amendment allows such a local government to erect a sign on each highway under its jurisdiction at the point where that highway crosses its territorial boundary and enters another town, village, city, or county that does not designate the highway as an ATV route alerting motorists and ATV operators that the ATV route designation has ended. The local government may also designate a preferred route and erect signs marking the route.

BILL HISTORY

On September 11, 2017, Assembly Amendment 1 was offered by Representative Jacque. On September 12, 2017, the Assembly Committee on Transportation recommended adoption of the amendment on a vote of Ayes, 8; Noes, 0, and passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 11; Noes, 0.

SM:ksm