



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4132/1
EVM:ahc

2015 SENATE BILL 504

January 6, 2016 – Introduced by Senators OLSEN, LASEE, MARKLEIN and NASS, cosponsored by Representatives KULP, KRUG, KLEEFISCH, T. LARSON, HUTTON, HORLACHER, ALLEN and QUINN. Referred to Committee on Transportation and Veterans Affairs.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 84.305 (5) (f) 1.; and *to create* 84.305 (5) (f) 3. of the statutes;
2 **relating to:** removal of vegetation obstructing certain outdoor advertising
3 signs along highways.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill creates an exception to the requirement that a sign owner pay compensation to the Department of Transportation (DOT) for the removal of certain trees that obstruct the view of the sign.

Under current law, DOT administers a permit system for the maintenance and removal by sign owners of vegetation obstructing the view of signs along state trunk highways. With limited exceptions, DOT issues permits to sign owners for the trimming or removal of vegetation in the highway right-of-way if, for a distance of 500 continuous feet within the 1,000-foot distance motorists travel immediately before reaching the sign, the vegetation obstructs the view of any portion of the face of the sign. A permit authorizes the sign owner, or a third-party contractor employed by the sign owner, to trim or remove obstructing vegetation to the extent necessary to eliminate the obstruction and restore an unobstructed view of the sign for a distance of 500 continuous feet along the highway. A permittee must compensate DOT \$200, adjusted annually for inflation, for each tree removed that has a diameter of two inches or more.

Under this bill, no compensation is required for the removal of a tree obstructing the view of a sign if the sign advertises activities conducted on the property on which it is located.

