



2013 ASSEMBLY BILL 591

December 20, 2013 - Introduced by Representatives HESSELBEIN, MURSAU, A. OTT, SARGENT, BIES, BERCEAU, OHNSTAD, CLARK, HEBL and HULSEY, cosponsored by Senators WIRCH, LASSA, LEHMAN and CARPENTER. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage.

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 30.627 of the statutes; **relating to:** regulating certain rafting
2 outfitters.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill imposes requirements on rafting outfitters who provide inflatable rafts for travel through Big Smokey Falls on the Wolf River in Menominee County. Under the bill, such rafting outfitters must furnish a helmet to each occupant of the raft and station an employee at Big Smokey Falls when the flow of the Wolf River measures at between 700 and 900 cubic feet per second. The bill requires the rafting outfitter to ensure that the stationed employee is trained to safely direct travelers through Big Smokey Falls and has all information required to enable the employee to immediately contact rescue personnel in the event of an emergency. The bill also prohibits a rafting outfitter from providing a raft for travel down the Wolf River when the flow of the river measures at 900 cubic feet per second or more.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

3 **SECTION 1.** 30.627 of the statutes is created to read:
4 **30.627 Regulation of certain rafting outfitters.** (1) In this section “rafting
5 outfitter” means a person who operates an establishment that provides inflatable

ASSEMBLY BILL 591**SECTION 1**

1 rafts or other nonmotorized boats for travel on the Wolf River in Menominee County
2 for a fee.

3 (2) Every rafting outfitter who provides an inflatable raft for travel through Big
4 Smokey Falls on the Wolf River in Menominee County shall do all of the following:

5 (a) Furnish a helmet to each occupant of the raft.

6 (b) Station an employee at Big Smokey Falls at any time that the U.S.
7 geological survey's national water information system for Langlade County
8 measures the flow of the Wolf River at between 700 and 900 cubic feet per second.

9 (3) No rafting outfitter may provide an inflatable raft for travel on the Wolf
10 River in Menominee County when the U.S. geological survey's national water
11 information system for Langlade County measures the flow of the Wolf River at 900
12 cubic feet per second or more.

13 (4) Every rafting outfitter who is required to station an employee at Big
14 Smokey Falls under sub. (2) shall ensure that the stationed employee is trained to
15 safely direct travelers through Big Smokey Falls and has all of the information
16 required to enable the stationed employee to immediately contact rescue personnel
17 in the event of an emergency.

18 (END)