



2007 SENATE BILL 470

February 8, 2008 – Introduced by Senators RISSER, MILLER, LEHMAN, COWLES, LASSA, OLSEN and SCHULTZ, cosponsored by Representatives DAVIS, BLACK, BALLWEG, BIES, MONTGOMERY, A. OTT and TOWNSEND. Referred to Committee on Transportation and Tourism.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 340.01 (5), 346.35 (intro.) and 347.489 (1) of the statutes;
2 **relating to:** the definition of bicycle; lighting of bicycles, motor bicycles, and
3 electric personal assistive mobility devices; and manual turn signals for
4 bicyclists.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, a “vehicle” is defined, with certain exceptions, to mean every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway. Certain legal consequences relating to a vehicle and its operation might follow from the classification of the vehicle, including equipment standards, traffic regulations, and registration requirements. Under current law, “bicycle” is defined as every vehicle propelled by the feet acting upon pedals and having wheels any two of which are not less than 14 inches in diameter.

This bill modifies the definition of “bicycle” to include vehicles propelled by hand.

Under current law, vehicle equipment requirements are generally inapplicable to bicycles, motor bicycles, and electric personal assistive mobility devices (EPAMDs) except as otherwise expressly provided. Current law expressly prohibits a person from operating a bicycle, motor bicycle, or EPAMD, which is commonly known by its trade name “Segway,” on a highway, sidewalk, bicycle lane, or bicycle way during hours of darkness unless the bicycle, motor bicycle, or EPAMD is equipped with or, with respect to a bicycle or motor bicycle, the operator is wearing, a lamp emitting a white light visible to the front. The bicycle, motor bicycle, or EPAMD must also be

SENATE BILL 470

equipped with a red reflector or, with respect to an EPAMD, reflective tape, on the rear. A lamp emitting a red or flashing amber light to the rear may be used in addition to the reflector, but the lamp may not substitute for the reflector.

This bill eliminates the provision specifying that a lamp emitting a red or flashing amber light to the rear of a bicycle, motor bicycle, or EPAMD may be used, thereby allowing any color of flashing light to the rear of the bicycle, motor bicycle, or EPAMD.

Under current law, persons operating vehicles on highways in this state are required to use stop and turn signals that can be either by a signal lamp or by hand and arm signals. If the operator of a vehicle uses hand and arm signals, the signals must be given on the left side of the vehicle.

This bill allows bicyclists to use hand and arm signals for turns and stops with either hand and arm.

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

1 **SECTION 1.** 340.01 (5) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 340.01 (5) "Bicycle" means every vehicle propelled by the feet or hands acting
3 upon pedals and having wheels any 2 of which are not less than 14 inches in diameter.

4 **SECTION 2.** 346.35 (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

5 **346.35 Method of giving signals on turning and stopping.** (intro.)

6 Whenever a stop or turn signal is required by s. 346.34, such signal may in any event
7 be given by a signal lamp or lamps of a type meeting the specifications set forth in
8 s. 347.15. Except as provided in s. 347.15 (3m), such signals also may be given by the
9 hand and arm in lieu of or in addition to signals by signal lamp. When given by hand
10 and arm, such signals, except signals by the operator of a bicycle, who may use either
11 hand and arm, shall be given from the left side of the vehicle in the following manner
12 and shall indicate as follows:

13 **SECTION 3.** 347.489 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

14 347.489 (1) No person may operate a bicycle, motor bicycle, or electric personal
15 assistive mobility device upon a highway, sidewalk, bicycle lane, or bicycle way

SENATE BILL 470

1 during hours of darkness unless the bicycle, motor bicycle, or electric personal
2 assistive mobility device is equipped with or, with respect to a bicycle or motor
3 bicycle, the operator is wearing, a lamp emitting a white light visible from a distance
4 of at least 500 feet to the front of the bicycle, motor bicycle, or electric personal
5 assistive mobility device. A bicycle, motor bicycle, or electric personal assistive
6 mobility device shall also be equipped with a red reflector that has a diameter of at
7 least 2 inches of surface area or, with respect to an electric personal assistive mobility
8 device, that is a strip of reflective tape that has at least 2 square inches of surface
9 area, on the rear so mounted and maintained as to be visible from all distances from
10 50 to 500 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps
11 on a motor vehicle. ~~A lamp emitting a red or flashing amber light visible from a~~
12 ~~distance of 500 feet to the rear may be used in addition to but not in lieu of the red~~
13 ~~reflector.~~

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(END)