



2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 826

January 29, 2016 – Introduced by Representative KRUG. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 84.013 (3m) (j) of the statutes; **relating to:** the preparation of
2 an environmental impact statement for a certain major highway project in
3 Wood County.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the Department of Transportation (DOT) administers a major highway projects program. With limited exceptions, a major highway project is either 1) a project having a total cost of more than \$30,000,000 and involving a) construction of a new highway 2.5 miles or more in length; b) reconstruction or reconditioning of an existing highway that relocates at least 2.5 miles of the highway or adds one or more lanes five miles or more in length to the highway; or c) improvement of an existing multilane, divided highway to freeway standards or 2) a project having a total cost of at least \$75,000,000. For both categories of major highway projects, DOT annually adjusts the total cost threshold based on an inflation index.

For major highway projects of the first type, the project must generally receive the approval of the Transportation Projects Commission (TPC) and the legislature (generally referred to as “enumeration”) before the project may be constructed. In general, DOT must receive authorization from TPC to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) or environmental assessment (EA). Once the EIS or EA is completed, TPC may recommend approval of the project. After TPC has recommended a project, the legislature may enumerate the project and construction of the project may commence.

