AN ACT to renumber 349.21; to amend 346.48 (2) (b) 1, 346.48 (2) (b) 2 and 346.51 (1) (a); and to create 346.48 (2) (bm) and 349.21 (2) of the statutes, relating to use of flashing red warning lights on school buses.

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

SECTION 1. 346.48 (2) (b) 1 of the statutes is amended to read:

346.48 (2) (b) 1. Special school bus loading areas where the bus is entirely off the traveled portion of the highway.

SECTION 2. 346.48 (2) (b) 2 of the statutes is amended to read:

346.48 (2) (b) 2. Residence or business districts when pupils or other authorized passengers are to be loaded or unloaded where a sidewalk and curb are laid on both sides of the road, unless required otherwise by municipal ordinance enacted under s. 349.21 (2).

SECTION 3. 346.48 (2) (bm) of the statutes is created to read:

346.48 (2) (bm) Except as provided in par. (b) 2 or unless prohibited by municipal ordinance enacted under s. 349.21 (2), a school bus operator shall use the flashing red warning lights as provided in par. (a) in a zone designated by “school” warning signs as provided in s. 118.08 (1) in which a street or highway borders the grounds of a school when pupils or other authorized passengers are loaded or unloaded directly from or onto the school grounds or that portion of the
right-of-way between the roadway and the school grounds.

SECTION 4. 346.51 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

346.51 (1) (a) An unobstructed width of at least 15 feet upon the roadway of such highway must be left opposite such standing vehicle for the free passage of other vehicles. This section shall not apply to buses used exclusively for the transportation of school children by a school bus when such buses are loading or unloading such children or other authorized passengers where red flashing signal lights are used as required by s. 346.48 (2).

SECTION 5. 349.21 of the statutes is renumbered 349.21 (1).

SECTION 6. 349.21 (2) of the statutes is created to read:

349.21 (2) The governing body of any town, city, village or county may, by ordinance, prohibit the use of flashing red warning lights by school bus operators when pupils or other authorized passengers are loaded or unloaded directly from or onto the school grounds or that portion of the right-of-way between the roadway and the school grounds in a zone designated by “school” warning signs as provided in s. 118.08 (1) in which a street or highway borders the grounds of a school.