AN ACT to amend 66.046 (2), 86.19 (1) and 346.42; and to create 59.07 (145) and 60.23 (17m) of the statutes, relating to neighborhood watch signs.

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

SECTION 1. 59.07 (145) of the statutes is created to read:

59.07 (145) NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH SIGN APPROVAL. Approve the placement, by a town board, of a neighborhood watch sign under s. 60.23 (17m) within the right-of-way of a county trunk highway.

SECTION 2. 60.23 (17m) of the statutes is created to read:

60.23 (17m) NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM AND SIGNS. Authorize a neighborhood watch program. The town board may place within the right-of-way of a street or highway under the jurisdiction of the town a neighborhood watch sign of a uniform design approved by the department of transportation. If the town board obtains the approval of the county board, the town board may place a sign under this subsection within the right-of-way of a county trunk highway within the limits of the town. No sign under this subsection may be placed within the right-of-way of a highway designated as part of the national system of interstate and defense highways.

SECTION 3. 66.046 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

66.046 (2) A city or village which has a neighborhood watch program authorized by the law enforcement agency of the city or village and in which the residents of the city or village participate may, in a manner approved by the city council or village board, place within the right-of-way of a street or highway within its limits a neighborhood watch sign of a uniform design approved by the department of justice, in consultation with the department of transportation. No sign under this subsection may be placed within the right-of-way of a highway designated as part of the national system of interstate and defense highways.

SECTION 4. 86.19 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

86.19 (1) Except as provided in sub. (1m), no sign shall be placed within the limits of any street or highway except such as are necessary for the guidance or
warning of traffic or as provided by s. ss. 60.23 (17m) and 66.046. The authorities charged with the maintenance of streets or highways shall cause the removal therefrom and the disposal of all other signs.

SECTION 5. 346.42 of the statutes is amended to read:

346.42 Interference with signs and signals prohibited. No person may intentionally damage, deface, move, or obstruct an official traffic sign or signal or neighborhood watch sign under s. 60.23 (17m) or 66.046 (2) or intentionally interfere with the effective operation of such sign or signal.