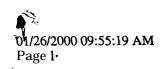
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1999 - 2000 LEGISLATURE





AN ACT to create 101.10 and 895.555 of the statutes; relating to: storage and

handling of anhydrous ammonia, creating an exemption from civil liability and providing a penalty.

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Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Anhydrous ammonia is a chemical compound that primarily is used for agricultural purposes but that may also be used in the production of the controlled substance methamphetamine. Currently, no statute specifically regulates the storage and handling of anhydrous ammonia. However, current rules promulgated by the department of commerce (department) do regulate the storage and handling These rules are promulgated under the department's of anhydrous ammonia. general authority to promote safe places of employment. Any person who violates these rules may be required to forfeit not less than \$10 nor more than \$100.

This bill creates a statute that specifically regulates the storage and handling of anhydrous ammonia. This bill requires the department to promulgate rules to establish reasonable standards relating to the safe storage and handling of anhydrous ammonia. This bill also increases the penalty that applies to certain violations of these rules and creates certain new penalties relating to anhydrous ammonia. Under this bill, any person who does any of the following may be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than three years and six months or both:

(a) Stores, holds or transports anhydrous ammonia in a container that does not meet all applicable requirements prescribed by rule of the department.

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- (b) Transfers or attempts to transfer anhydrous ammonia into a container that does not meet all applicable requirements prescribed by rule of the department.
- (c) Transfers or attempts to transfer anhydrous ammonia without the consent of the owner of the anhydrous ammonia.
- (d) Intentionally causes damage to anhydrous ammonia equipment without the consent of the owner of the equipment.
 - (e) Commits a theft of anhydrous ammonia or anhydrous ammonia equipment.

This bill also creates a civil liability exemption. Under this bill, any person who owns, maintains or installs anhydrous ammonia equipment is immune from civil liability for any act or omission that relates to the equipment and that causes damage to an individual, if that damage occurs during the individual's violation of items (c), (d) or (e), listed above. However, under this bill, a person is not immune from civil liability for certain reckless, wanton or intentional acts or omissions.

For further information see the $\it state$ fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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

SECTION 1. 101.10 of the statutes is created to read:

101.10 Storage and handling of anhydrous ammonia. (1) DEFINITIONS. In this section:

- (a) "Anhydrous ammonia equipment" means any equipment that is used in the application of anhydrous ammonia for an agricultural purpose or that is used to store, hold, transport or transfer anhydrous ammonia.
 - **(b)** "Transfer" means to remove from a container.
- (2) Rules. The department shall promulgate rules that prescribe reasonable standards relating to the safe storage and handling of anhydrous ammonia. The rules shall prescribe standards for the design, construction, repair, alteration, location, installation, inspection and operation of anhydrous ammonia equipment. The rules promulgated under this subsection do not apply to ammonia manufacturing plants, refrigeration plants where ammonia is used solely as a refrigerant and ammonia transportation pipelines.

BILL

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1	(3) PROHIBITIONS. No person may do any of the following:
2	(a) Store, hold or transport anhydrous ammonia in a container that does not
3	meet all applicable requirements established by rule of the department promulgated
4	under sub. (2).
5	(b) Transfer or attempt to transfer anhydrous ammonia into a container that
6	does not meet all applicable requirements established by rule of the department
7	promulgated under sub. (2).
8	(c) Transfer or attempt to transfer anhydrous ammonia without the consent of
9	the owner of the anhydrous ammonia.
10	(d) Intentionally cause damage to anhydrous ammonia equipment without the
11	consent of the owner of the anhydrous ammonia equipment.
12	(e) Intentionally take, carry away, use, conceal or retain possession of
13	anhydrous ammonia belonging to another or anhydrous ammonia equipment
14	belonging to another, without the other's consent and with intent to deprive the
15	owner permanently of possession of the anhydrous ammonia or anhydrous ammonia
16	equipment.
17	(4) Penalties. (a) Any person who violates a rule of the department
18	promulgated under sub. (2) may be required to forfeit not less than \$10 nor more than
19	\$100 for each violation.
20	(b) Any person who violates sub. (3) may be fined not more than \$10,000 or
21	imprisoned for not more than 3 years and 6 months, or both, for each violation.
22	Notwithstanding s. 101.02 (12), each act inviolation of sub. (3) constitutes a separate
23	offense.

SECTION 2. 895.555 of the statutes is created to read:

^E BILL

publication.

895.556 Liability exemption; anhydrous ammonia. (1) LIABILITY
EXEMPTION. Except as provided under sub. (2), any person who owns, maintains or
installs anhydrous ammonia equipment, as defined in s. 101.10 (1) (a), is immune
from any civil liability for acts or omissions relating to the anhydrous ammonia
equipment that cause damage to an individual, if that damage occurs during the
individual's violation of s. 101.10 (3) (c), (d) or (e).
(2) Exception. A person is not immune from civil liability under sub. (1) if the
damage is caused by the person's reckless or wanton acts or omissions or by acts or
omissions intended by the person to cause damage.
SECTION 3. Initial applicability.
(1) STORAGE AND HANDLING OF ANHYDROUS AMMONIA. The creation of section
101.10 (4) (b) of the statutes first applies to acts occurring on the effective date of this
subsection.
(2) Liability exemption; anhydrous ammonia. The creation of section 895.555
(1) of the statutes first applies to acts or omissions occurring on the effective date of
this subsection.
SECTION 4. Effective date.
(1) This act takes effect on the first day of the 6th month beginning after

(END)

SUBMITTAL FORM

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU Legal Section Telephone: 266-3561 5th Floor, 100 N. Hamilton Street

The attached draft is submitted 1 **r** your inspection. Please check each part carefully, proofread each word, and **sign** on the appropriate line(s) below.

Date: 01/26/2000 To: Representative Ott Relating to LRB drafting number: LRB-4284 **Topic** Anhydrous ammonia Subject(s) Buildings/Safety - misc., Agriculture - miscellaneous, Criminal Law - drugs 1. **JACKET** the draft for introduction in the Senate or the Assembly (check only one). Only the requester under whose name the drafting request is entered in the LRB's drafting records may authorize the draft to be submitted. Please allow one day for the preparation of the required copies. 2. **REDRAFT.** See the changes indicated or attached A revised draft will be submitted for your approval with changes incorporated. 3. Obtain FISCAL ESTIMATE NOW, prior to introduction If the analysis indicates that a fiscal estimate is required because the proposal makes an appropriation or increases or decreases existing appropriations or state or general local government fiscal liability or revenues, you have the option to request the fiscal estimate prior to introduction. If you choose to introduce the proposal without the fiscal estimate, the fiscal estimate will be requested automatically upon introduction. It takes about 10 days to obtain a fiscal estimate. Requesting the fiscal estimate prior to introduction retains your flexibility for possible redrafting of the proposal.

If you have any questions regarding the above procedures, please call 266-356 1. If you have any questions relating to the attached draft, please feel free to call me.

Robert J. Marchant, Legislative Attorney Telephone: (608) 26 1-4454