DRAFTER'S NOTE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

LRB-3898/2dn PEN:cjs:mrc

November 30, 1999

This bill requires motorists to change lanes when approaching an emergency vehicle stopped on a "highway". A highway is defined as the entire width between the boundary lines (s. 340.01 (22), stats.). An approaching motorist will likely be unaware of the highway's boundaries; a motorist may not know, for example, whether a police vehicle stopped 12 feet off the right edge of the pavement is between the boundary lines. This law might be clearer if it specified the distance from the edge of the pavement (e.g. "change lanes when approaching an emergency vehicle stopped within 12 feet of the paved portion of a highway").

Paul E. Nilsen Legislative Attorney Phone: (608) 261–6926