

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 2/16/2000

Bill No. Senate Bill 4

Of Subject \_\_\_\_\_

(Name) Senator Jim Baumgart

(Street Address or Route Number) \_\_\_\_\_

(City & Zip Code) \_\_\_\_\_

(Representing) \_\_\_\_\_

Speaking in favor:

Speaking against:

Registering in favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for information only:   
Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms  
Room 411 West  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

\* Please Call when SB 4 is up.  
C-2056 Thanks.

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: Feb 16 2000

Bill No. SB 4

Of Subject \_\_\_\_\_

(Name) Jim Durworth

(Street Address or Route Number) \_\_\_\_\_

(City & Zip Code) \_\_\_\_\_

(Representing) \_\_\_\_\_

Speaking in favor:

Speaking against:

Registering in favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for information only:   
Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms  
Room 411 West  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 2/16/00

Bill No. SB 4

Of Subject Wagers on Lottery

(Name) Ginnie Stetefeld

(Street Address or Route Number) \_\_\_\_\_

(City & Zip Code) Madison, WI 53717

(Representing) AAA Wisconsin

Speaking in favor:

Speaking against:

Registering in favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for information only:   
Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms  
Room 411 West  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 2-16-00

Bill No. Senate Bill 4

Subject: Washable wiper/brushes on bill

Name: Steve Urzua

301 N. Pine St #205

(Street Address or Route Number)

Madison, WI 53704

(City & Zip Code)

(Representing) Self

Speaking In favor:

Speaking against:

Registering In favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for information only:

Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms

Room 411 West

State Capitol

Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 16 February 2000

Bill No. Senate Bill 4

Subject:

Name: Senator Fred Piser

220 South Capitol

(Street Address or Route Number)

(City & Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking In favor:

Speaking against:

Registering In favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for information only:

Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms

Room 411 West

State Capitol

Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 2/16/00

Bill No. SR 4

Subject: Handbags

Name: Cass Perry

2009 Parkwood Dr

(Street Address or Route Number)

Green Bay, WI 54304

(City & Zip Code)

(Representing) Wisconsin Assn

Speaking In favor:

Speaking against:

Registering In favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for information only:

Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms

Room 411 West

State Capitol

Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 2-16-00

Bill No. Senate Bill 4

Or Subject Minimum Calorie Requirement on Bill

(Name) Nella L. Spence

(Street Address or Route Number) 1238 Sweeney #6

(City & Zip Code) Middleton WI 53562

(Representing) Self

Speaking in favor:

Speaking against:

Registering in favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for information only:

Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms  
Room 411 West  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 2-16-00

Bill No. SB 4

Or Subject None

(Name) Marc Bentley

(Street Address or Route Number) 362 Grand Canyon

(City & Zip Code) Madison WI 53707

(Representing) WV Motor Carriers Assoc

Speaking in favor:

Speaking against:

Registering in favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for information only:

Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms  
Room 411 West  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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P. O. Box 7882 - Madison, WI 53707-7882

February 24, 2000

Representative Jeff Stone  
306 North, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Representative Stone:

Thank you for scheduling Senate Bill 4 for an Executive Session on March 1, 2000. We appreciated your willingness to schedule the bill for a public hearing in order for the committee to hear testimony and we welcome this opportunity to move the bill out of committee for consideration on the floor of the State Assembly.

As you know, SB 4 is a bill to help provide a safe environment for pedestrians and drivers on all Wisconsin roadways. Requiring headlight use during times of inclement weather is a common sense way of reducing the safety risk of driving through Wisconsin. We urge your support of the bill on March 1, 2000.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

JOHN AINSWORTH  
State Representative  
6<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

JIM BAUMGART  
State Senator  
9<sup>th</sup> Senate District

GOOD MORNING, CHAIRMAN STONE AND ASSEMBLY  
COMMITTEE ON HIGHWAY SAFETY MEMBERS:

BEING A FORMER TRUCK DRIVER AND FORMER MOTOR COACH BUS DRIVER, I  
HAVE NOTICED MANY DRIVERS ON WISCONSIN HIGHWAYS WHO FAILED TO USE  
THEIR HEADLIGHTS DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS. THIS MADE  
THESE UNLIT VEHICLES VERY DIFFICULT TO SEE BOTH THROUGH MY WINDOWS  
AND IN MY MIRRORS.

SENATE BILL 4 WOULD REQUIRE WISCONSIN MOTORISTS TO TURN THEIR  
HEADLIGHTS ON WHEN WEATHER CONDITIONS REQUIRE THE NEED FOR  
WINDSHIELD WIPER USE. AT LEAST 33 STATES IN THE U.S. INCLUDING  
NEIGHBORING ILLINOIS AND MINNESOTA HAVE SIMILAR INCLEMENT WEATHER  
LIGHTS-ON LAWS.

AS IN THE PAST THE WISCONSIN AAA AGAIN SUPPORTS THIS BILL.

THIS LEGISLATION HAD BEEN SOUGHT IN THE PAST BY WISCONSIN MILK  
HAULERS WHO ROUTINELY MUST BRAVE THE EARLY MORNING FOG AND  
INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS AS THEY DRIVE THEIR ROUTES.

ONE THING I HAVE HEARD FROM SOME WISCONSIN LAWMAKERS IS THAT THEY  
FEEL THIS MEASURE IS NOT NECESSARY BECAUSE SOME VEHICLE  
MANUFACTURER'S ARE INTRODUCING NEW VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH DAYTIME  
RUNNING LIGHTS (DRL'S). DRL'S ARE A GREAT IDEA, HOWEVER THEY ARE  
NOT MANDATED ON NEW VEHICLES IN THE U.S., SO MANY MANUFACTURER'S  
ARE NOT INSTALLING THEM ON THEIR NEW MODELS. IT WILL BE MANY YEARS

BEFORE ALL VEHICLES ON THE HIGHWAYS HAVE DRL'S. THE OTHER BIGGER PROBLEM WITH DRL'S IS THAT THEY ONLY BURN HEADLIGHTS AT ABOUT 75% BRIGHTNESS AND THE VEHICLE TAILLIGHTS ARE NOT LIT. DRL'S ARE NOT INTENDED FOR USE DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS. THIS IS WHY A WISCONSIN, "WINDSHIELD-WIPER, LIGHTS-ON" IS NEEDED.

I HAVE GIVEN YOU SEVERAL HANDOUTS, INCLUDING A LETTER FROM RETIRED ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR RALPH DUNN AND SOME NEWSPAPERS CLIPPINGS FROM ILLINOIS, MINNESOTA AND NEW YORK ILLUSTRATING THEIR "INCLEMENT WEATHER-LIGHTS-ON" LAWS. SENATOR DUNN IN HIS LETTER EXPLAINS HOW HE CONVINCED THE ILLINOIS LEGISLATURE TO PASS THEIR "WINDSHIELD-WIPER, LIGHTS-ON" LAW. INCLUDED IN THE HANDOUT IS A NEWSPAPER CLIPPING ABOUT AL MOORHOUSE, A CANNON FALLS, MINNESOTA FORMER TRUCK DRIVER WHO USED HIS GRASSROOTS IDEA TO TURN ON THE LIGHTS OF STATE GOVERNMENT IN MINNESOTA AND CONVINCED THE LEGISLATURE TO PASS LEGISLATION REQUIRING MOTORISTS TO USE HEADLIGHTS IN INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS.

THIS LEGISLATION WILL HELP INSURE THE SAFETY OF DRIVERS AND PEDESTRIANS ON DAYS WHEN THE VISION OF THE DRIVER MAY BE IMPAIRED BY ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS.

PLEASE SUPPORT SENATE BILL 4! THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND INTEREST.

SINCERELY,

STEVE VINCENT, 301 N. 3RD STREET, #205, MADISON, WI 53704 (608)249-5320

2-12-00

REP. JEFF STONE

HERE IS MY VOTE FOR BILL NO 4. I FOLLOWED THIS BILL FOR MANY YEARS, MAYBE NOW SOME BODY WILL RECOGNIZE THE SAFETY FACTOR OF THIS BILL.

THIS WILL BE A HELP FOR SENIOR DRIVERS WHO MAY HAVE DISTANT VISION PROBLEMS. A DARK RAINY DAY WITH A DARK COLORED AUTO ON A DARK COLORED COUNTRY ROAD IS A PROBLEM EVEN WITH GOOD VISION.

ABOUT 10 YEARS AGO THEY HAD THIS LAW IN CANADA. THE NEWS PAPERS GAVE THE TIME AT DUSK WHEN LIGHTS MUST BE ON.

PLEASE PASS THIS BILL, MAYBE SOME DAY IT MAY SAVE MY LIFE.

THANK YOU,  
ARTHUR C. SCHAEFER  
2514 WEDEMEYER ST.  
SHEBOYGAN WI 53081



State Senator  
**James R. Baumgart**

State Capitol: P. O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882 • Telephone (608) 266-2056  
Toll-free: 1-888-295-8750 • E-Mail: sen.baumgart@legis.state.wi.us

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December 28, 1999

Representative Jeff Stone  
State Capitol, 306 North  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Representative Stone: *J.R.B.*

As you are aware, Senate Bill 4 has been referred to your committee for review. SB 4 relates to requiring the use of headlights while driving an automobile in inclement weather. The bill passed the State Senate in October by ayes 20, noes 13 vote.

Earlier this year, you had shown an interest in scheduling Senate Bill 4 for a public hearing. I appreciate your willingness to hear testimony on the merits of this proposal and am looking forward to discussing this issue with you in the near future. Please feel free to contact me with any questions that may arise.

Sincerely,

**JIM BAUMGART**  
State Senator  
9<sup>th</sup> Senate District

JB/ph



# John Ainsworth

State Representative • 6th Assembly District

Chair: Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs

November 11, 1999

Representative Jeff Stone, Chairman  
Assembly Committee on Highway Safety  
Room 306 North – State Capitol  
Madison, Wisconsin 53708

In Re: Senate Bill 4

Dear Chairman Stone:

I have been informed that Senate Bill 4, relating to requiring headlights and other required lamps on vehicles to be lighted while windshield wipers are being used, has passed the Senate and referred to the Assembly Highway Safety Committee. As the lead Assembly co-sponsor of this legislation, I would respectfully request that S.B. 4 receive consideration by the Committee at your earliest convenience.

Thank you,

JOHN AINSWORTH  
State Representative  
6<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

JA/cr



**District:**  
W6382 Waukechon Road  
Shawano, Wisconsin 54166  
(715) 526-3810

**Toll-Free:** (888) 529-0006  
**E-mail:** Rep.Ainsworth@legis.state.wi.us  
♻️ Printed on recycled paper

**Office:**  
P.O. Box 8952, State Capitol  
Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8952  
(608) 266-3097 • Fax: (608) 282-3606



State Senator  
**James R. Baumgart**

State Capitol: P. O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882 • Telephone (608) 266-2056  
Toll-free: 1-888-295-8750 • E-Mail: sen.baumgart@legis.state.wi.us

November 5, 1999

M E M O

TO: Representative Jeff Stone, Chair  
Representative John Townsend, Vice-Chair  
Assembly Highway Safety Committee  
& Members of the Committee

FROM: Senator Jim Baumgart

RE: SENATE BILL 4, relating to: requiring headlights and  
other required lamps on vehicles to be lighted while  
windshield wipers are being used.

.....  
Senate Bill 4, which I authored, passed in the Senate on October 26  
and has been referred to the Assembly Highway Safety Committee

Last session this legislation, introduced by Senator Rude, passed in  
the Senate, but failed to be reported out of the Assembly Committee.

On June 2, at the public hearing on SB 4, Ernie Stetenfeld, of AAA in  
Wisconsin, testified in support of the bill. The WI Motor Carriers  
Association & the Wisconsin Troopers Association registered in support  
of the bill.

With the increasing number of cars that now automatically have their  
lights on, I believe that this bill, if passed into law, will provide  
a uniformity that will make driving safer.

At least 9 states have the requirements for the use of lights when it  
is raining -- Minnesota is one of them. At least once a year, I drive  
highways in Minnesota and I find that the system seems to work well.  
In Illinois, there was a 22% drop in injury accidents statewide the  
first year this requirement was in effect.

We are a state with a lot of inclement weather, rain, snow, and heavy  
fog. We should use our lights! It is the safe thing to do!

I ask for your support in committee for Senate Bill 4.



DISTRICT OFFICES:

P. O. BOX 150  
DUQUOIN, ILLINOIS 62832  
618-542-3363

300 E. MAIN STREET, SUITE 19  
CARBONDALE, ILLINOIS 62901  
618-529-3866

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:

M106 CAPITOL BUILDING  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706  
217-782-8137

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE

**RALPH DUNN**  
STATE SENATOR - 58TH DISTRICT  
RETIRED

MINORITY SPOKESMAN:

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MEMBER:

APPROPRIATIONS II COMMITTEE  
ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
COAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
CITIZENS COUNCIL ON ENERGY  
RESOURCES

June 5, 1997

Steve Vincent  
301 North Third Street #205  
Madison, WI 53704

Dear Steve:

Sorry that I haven't answered sooner re your efforts to pass the headlight/windshield wiper bill in your state. My best advice is: Keep trying!

I toyed with the idea for several years before I gave it a try in the 1992 session (Illinois Senate)--one of my fellow Republican Senator gave me a real rough time that year and I only got about 8 or 10 votes (30 needed to pass). Luckily for me (and the auto drivers in Illinois), my fellow Senator was defeated in the '92 election (for the U.S. Congress) so I introduced it again in '93 session. And it passed both the Senate and House!

One of the reasons it passed was the help of the Illinois State Police in lobbying for it--another reason was that for the first time since about 1972, Republicans had a majority in both the House and Senate and I took advantage of that.

Al Kroner of our staff and the Democrat staff in both Houses were helpful in the '93 session.

I think the insurance lobby and several other groups helped lobby their legislators.

Don't give up--if I was still in the Senate, I would lobby and try to pass the DRIS idea for Illinois, with an effective date of about 2000 or 2002, giving time to have the auto builders to gear up for it (California has it now, I think).

Good Luck!

Ralph Dunn



State Senator  
**James R. Baumgart**

State Capitol: P. O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882 • Telephone (608) 266-2056  
Toll-free: 1-888-295-8750 • E-Mail: sen.baumgart@legis.state.wi.us

**ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND  
TRANSPORTATION**

STATEMENT OF SENATOR JIM BAUMGART – PUBLIC HEARING – February  
16, 2000 re:

SENATE BILL 4, relating to requiring headlights and other lamps on vehicles to be  
lighted while windshield wipers are being used.

.....

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss Senate Bill 4 – a bill that will  
increase automobile and pedestrian safety.

About 3 years ago, I was up in Rhinelander for a public hearing that required  
an overnight stay. I'm normally up early and travel around the countryside.  
Because it was rainy and very overcast, I stopped at a number of places within the  
community. Something bothered me greatly that day. Cars were coming into town  
on Highway 47 and 17 and I noticed that those cars without the lights on were  
almost invisible. With a background of rain, heavy overcast and dark blacktop  
pavement, they were nearly invisible at a time the school kids were starting to  
move. Their lights should have been on!

Not so long ago, we raised the speed limit on some roads in Wisconsin from  
55 to 65. That additional speed, especially during inclement weather, is another  
reason for us to move forward to pass Senate Bill 4.

At least nine state have the requirements for the use of lights when it is raining. Minnesota is one of them. At least once a year, I drive Minnesota highways and I find the system seems to work well. In Illinois, there was a 22% drop in injury accidents statewide the first year.

We are a state with a lot of inclement weather, rain, snow and heavy fog. We should use our lights. It is the safe thing to do. This bill, using windshield wipers as a guide, will do just that.



Feb 16, 2000

8030 Excelsior Drive  
P.O. Box 33  
Madison, WI 53701-0033  
608/836-6555  
800/236-1300

TO: Rep. Jeff Stone, Chairman,  
and Members of the Assembly Committee  
on Highway Safety

FROM: Ernie Stetenfeld *ES*  
AAA Wisconsin Vice President, Public and Government Relations (608/828-2487)

RE: AAA Wisconsin support for Senate Bill 4 ("wipers-on/lights-on")

Good morning, Chairman Stone and members of the committee. Thank you for this opportunity to express AAA's support for S.B. 4, which would give Wisconsin a common-sense, readily understandable, safety-enhancing "wipers-on/lights-on" law. On behalf of AAA Wisconsin--representing the motoring and travel interests of the more than 560,000 AAA members in our state--I strongly urge you to give this legislation your favorable consideration.

Since 1992, the national policy of the AAA federation of motor clubs has favored state governments requiring motorists to activate their vehicle's headlights when operating windshield wipers. AAA's position on this issue stems from the common-sense understanding that it's important for safety's sake that motorists use their headlights when visibility is reduced due to rain or other precipitation. Such a "wipers-on/lights-on" law avoids, however, the need to define "precipitation" or the amount of it that necessitates headlight use. This is a useful simplification. Wipers-on/lights-on is an idea that AAA believes would lodge readily in the minds of Wisconsin motorists. It's an idea about which, I believe, highway safety advocates would find it relatively easy to educate the state's driving public.

Last year, AAA Wisconsin conducted an opinion survey among a random sample of our members. In that survey we asked a number of questions related to traffic safety and potential legislation intended to improve it. Of 661 randomly selected members who completed this mail survey, 645 answered this question: *"Would you favor or oppose a "wipers-on/lights-on" law requiring the use of headlights when a vehicle's windshield wipers are in use (other than for simple windshield cleaning)?"* Fully 70 percent of respondents indicated they favored such a "wipers-on/lights-on" law; 30 percent were opposed. Please note that this support was indicated even without mention of the secondary-enforcement-only aspect of S.B. 4 and the fact that under the bill convictions for not having the required lamps lighted could not be noted on the motorist's driving record.

(--MORE--)

AAA WISCONSIN--SUPPORT FOR S.B. 4--PAGE TWO

add: Arkansas  
Louisiana  
South Carolina

14  
At least 11 states--Alabama, Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia--have some form of a wipers-on/lights-on law. Our neighboring state of Illinois put its wipers-on/lights-on law into effect on Jan. 1, 1994. The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety reported that, subsequently, a traffic studies engineer with the Illinois Department of Transportation analyzed wet-weather crashes in that state before and after the law. That analysis indicated that the law was having a significant impact on wet-weather crash-reduction. He reported that between 1990 and 1993, Illinois experienced an annual average of 97,065 crashes during wet weather. During 1994 and 1995, the annual average number of wet-weather crashes was 65,982, a reduction of 22 percent from the three-year average before the law took affect. This substantial reduction--with at least some part of it attributable to the change in law--represented a savings of about \$325 million per year in crash-related costs.

One of the real benefits of a wipers-on/lights-on law is the ease with which it can be communicated to and understood by all motorists. AAA Wisconsin would welcome the opportunity to use our member magazine, *Home & Away*--which circulates to more than 350,000 Wisconsin households--to help educate the motoring public about this common-sense change.

AAA Wisconsin urges your favorable consideration of this bill, and I thank you for considering AAA's position on this issue.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel March 2, 2000

# Lights, wipers, inaction

## Another minor issue hits radar screen in Madison

By DENNIS CHAPTMAN  
of the Journal Sentinel staff

Madison — The people who brought you a mourning dove bake-off and legislation that outlaws blood guzzling and forces schoolchildren to say "Yes sir" and "No ma'am" to teachers are at it again.

While state legislators are hard-put to find a whisper of agreement on major issues, such as taxation or criminal justice, many seem bent on pushing for the arcane.

On Wednesday, for instance, some lawmakers decided it would be nice if motorists would turn on their headlights when it rains.

So the Assembly Highway Safety Committee approved a bill that requires Wisconsin mo-

**"If you don't have the common sense to use windshield wipers and headlights when you're supposed to, the Legislature probably can't help you."**

Rep. Scott Suder (R-Abbotsford)

torists to turn on their headlights any time they use their windshield wipers.

"It leads to better visibility and improvements in highway safety," said Rep. Jeff Stone (R-Greenfield), the committee chairman.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. James Baumgart (D-Sheboygan), was passed by the Senate on a 20-13 vote last October and is bound for Assembly consider-

ation this month.

Baumgart is also the author of the "Vampire Bill," which would imprison people who encourage children to slash themselves so they can drink their blood.

On a less gruesome note, police could not stop motorists solely for failing to meet the headlight requirement but could issue a \$20 ticket for the offense if they stopped drivers for another offense.

Motorists could use their wipers to clean their windshield without turning on the lights under the bill, which was approved on a 6-1 vote. Seven other states already have such laws, and similar legislation is pending in Iowa, Indiana and Nebraska.

days, offbeat proposals seem to be the trend.

Rep. Carol Owens (R-Oshkosh) last month proposed legislation modeled after laws in Louisiana and Alabama that would require courtesy titles to be used by school kids when addressing their teachers.

And Rep. DuWayne Johnsrud (R-Eastman) hosted a mourning dove tasting party in his office as part of a drive to legalize hunting of the state bird of peace.

Owens' plan was panned by Rep. Mark Pocan (D-Madison), who named her the winner of his "Golden Turkey Award" for February. Pocan noted that a

cloud of silliness had descended in Madison.

"Given the large number of really dumb ideas this month, picking one was really tough," said Pocan, who called Owens' "Wisconsin's Miss Manners."

There are other examples of questionable legislation. Among the bills introduced this session are measures that would:

■ Make it illegal to spit blood, saliva and other bodily fluids in another person's face or drink — a measure affectionately referred to in Madison as the "Booger Bill."

■ Designate "Oh, Wisconsin Land of My Dreams" as the

state's "official ballad."

■ Allow a driver to flash his high-beam headlights at an oncoming motorist who is using his high-beam lights.

■ Require that all loaves of bread in Wisconsin be sold by weight only.

■ Exempt the purchase of a U.S. flag or Wisconsin flag from the state sales tax.

■ Declare the second Thursday in July as "Benefit Specialist Day" in Wisconsin. That day would honor those who assist seniors with their health care benefits.

■ Make English the official language of Wisconsin.

But Rep. Scott Suder (R-Abbotsford) voted against the bill, saying state government did not need to get involved in what he said were common-sense driving judgments.

"If you don't have the common sense to use windshield wipers and headlights when you're supposed to, the Legislature probably can't help you," Suder said.

He also questioned how much the state would have to spend to publicize the new law and encourage drivers to comply, if the bill is enacted.

Around the Capitol these

# If it's raining, turn on your headlights

Rochester 7-B. 8-1-90

By JANICE GREGORSON  
Post-Bulletin Staff Writer M132

When it rains, snows, sleet or hails, motorists better switch on their headlights or risk getting a \$100 fine.

So says a new state law, one of dozens that went into effect today.

It's also the one new law that Rochester Police Chief Pat Farrell says could produce a lot of work for his department.

The new law requires that motorists turn on their headlights "at any time when it is raining, snowing, sleeting or hailing." Previously, lights had to be turned on when visibility was impaired by weather.

"This is going to take some time for the public to adjust to," Farrell said.

And he said that while his department will encourage people to

use their lights according to the law, he doesn't foresee having his officers "out there in force" ticketing violators right away.

Another new law that can have an impact on police is one authored by Rochester Rep. Dave Bishop stemming from an incident in which an off-duty security guard shot and wounded two men during a confrontation between two groups.

Now, private security guards who are authorized to carry guns are required to undergo a firearms training program and obtain First Aid certification.

"It's a wonderful bill, but it's not practical," said Assistant Police Chief John Sibley. He said there are no training programs available in non-metropolitan Minnesota.

That means security guards trying to obtain gun permits from city police will be denied the permits until a training program is in

place.

"It leaves a gap between legislative intent and how to activate it," Sibley said.

Both police and prosecutors say there were few bills enacted by the Legislature this year that will have significant impacts on their departments.

Olmsted County Attorney Ray Schmitz said the Legislature eliminated negligence as an element to criminal vehicular homicide when someone is killed in an accident involving an intoxicated driver.

Another section of the law makes it a crime for anyone whose driver's license has been suspended, canceled or denied within the past five years to refuse a chemical test to determine the driver's blood-alcohol level. In the past, it was a crime to refuse the test only for those whose licenses were revoked.

## Inside:

Domestic violence laws lack teeth, some say — Page 5B  
Firms must grant parental leaves — Page 5B

More people may also be convicted of open bottle violations as passengers. The law expands the definition of possessing an open bottle to make it easier to prosecute offenses.

Generally, Schmitz said, the past legislative session was not intended to be a session where a lot of major changes were made.

Overall, the Legislature enacted 255 bills. Most went into effect today.

Minnesota "inclement weather, lights-on" law took effect August 1, 1990.

Rochester Post-Bulletin,

Rochester, MN,

August 1, 1990

# Law requires headlights on when wipers are used

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Enforcing a new law requiring motorists to have their headlights on when they use their windshield wipers shouldn't be difficult to enforce, state police officials said Wednesday. Gov. Jim Edgar approved the measure, which takes effect Jan. 1, on Tuesday.

After Jan. 1, motorists will have to use their headlights any time rain, snow, fog or other weather conditions require the use of windshield wipers. If motorists do not light up, they could face a \$75 fine.

"I don't think this (law) will be any

more difficult to enforce than any type of equipment failure," said Mark McDonald, a spokesman for the Illinois State Police. "It will be up to the officers' discretion."

"I don't think it will be a primary thing, but if an officer sees it and he's not doing something more important, I'm sure he'll enforce it."

McDonald said the new law is different from Illinois' seat-belt law. Officers ticket seat-belt violators only after stopping them for committing another offense.

Springfield Police Lt. Carl Sprinkel declined to comment Wednesday night on the new law.

When it was before the General Assembly, some lawmakers criticized the legislation as an unnecessary intrusion into people's lives.

On Tuesday, the governor also signed legislation removing the state of limitations for the filing of civil damages in childhood sexual abuse cases.

Some victims, who were the victims of sexual assaults in their childhood, mentally block out the experience and it resurfaces in their memory later in life, supporters of the bill said.

Under this legislation those individuals could file civil damages

against the alleged abuser. The state of limitations is currently 12 years.

Edgar also signed legislation to create a foundation to accept gifts or grants from the federal government and private groups to help develop the use of new communications technology in rural classrooms.

The foundation could help bring more courses to students in small rural schools, Edgar said.

He also approved legislation intended to speed up adoption cases in the court system by loosening time requirements on fingerprint and criminal background checks.

Illinois "windshield-wiper, lights-on" law  
took effect January 1, 1994.

The Springfield State Journal-Register,  
Springfield, IL  
July 29, 1993

**Use headlights to  
make roads safer**

**SEP 14 1993**

I have been increasingly aware of the dangers on the roadways today. In particular, the lack of visibility at the intersections and the confusion about the direction of distant vehicles on highways make driving hazardous.

The obvious solution is the use of daytime headlights. This makes vehicles easier to see and eliminates confusion of direction. We need legislation mandating use of daytime lights. Until such time, motorists should follow the example of buses and motorcycles that are currently required to use them. Some may object that they would forget to turn them off. But what is more important, risking a dead battery or a dead body?

**WIS ST JR** Nancy Baird, Monona

Nancy Baird, Monona, WI  
Wisconsin State Journal (editorial),  
Madison, WI  
September 14, 1993

## ***New York Rainy Days Mean Using Headlights***

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ALBANY, July 5 (AP) — Motorists will have to turn on their headlights whenever it rains or snows, under a measure signed into law today by Gov. Mario M. Cuomo.

The new law, which takes effect on Jan. 1, is intended mostly to help drivers see other cars in bad weather.

"When it's snowing or raining and other drivers have their headlights on, you really appreciate it," said James McGowan, vice president of the New York State Automobile Association.

State law already requires that motorists use their headlights 30 minutes after sundown, 30 minutes before sunrise and when visibility is less than 1,000 feet.

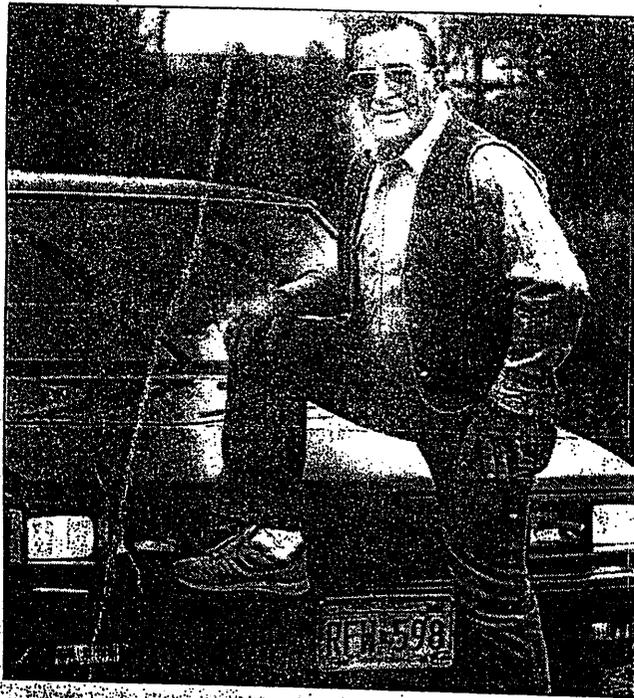
But the new law was needed to make it easier for drivers to remember situations when their lights would be necessary, said Mr. McGowan, whose two million-member group supported the proposal.

The measure requires that headlights be used whenever windshield wipers are in use because of rain, sleet, snow, hail "or other unfavorable atmospheric condition."

Motorists who violate the law could face fines of up to \$100, the same as any other equipment violation.

New York "windsheld-wiper, lights-on" law  
took effect January 1, 1991.  
The New York Times Metropolitan,  
New York, NY, July 6, 1990.

## Bright idea



AP photo  
Al Moorhouse, a former trucker, was the driving force behind Minnesota's new headlight law. As of Aug. 1, all vehicles are required to use headlights during inclement weather.

Sioux Falls Argus Leader

# Former trucker sparks Minn. headlight law

CANNON FALLS, Minn. (AP)—  
Al Moorhouse used his grassroots idea to turn on the lights of state government.

Moorhouse started the legislation that now requires motorists to use headlights in inclement weather. The law went into effect Aug. 1.

Moorhouse, 59, Cannon Falls, said that during his years as a truck driver he appreciated similar laws in about 10 other states. Early this year he got the idea of approaching Sen. Lyle Mehrkens, IR-Red Wing, to implement the law in Minnesota. Mehrkens' staff took to the suggestion and legislative process started.

"What amazed me was how this state's legislators and the truckers' association and everybody got involved. Even the governor patted me on the back," Moorhouse said. "I'm also amazed at how fast this worked."

Following the instructions of one of Mehrkens' aides, Moorhouse sent a letter to the office detailing what he thought the law should entail. The idea was simple. All motorists would turn on their headlights under any inclement condition — smoke, blowing dust, ground blizzards and more.

"Up here we've got rain, fog, snow, the whole bit," Moorhouse said. "The first thing you see on a rainy day coming down the road is headlights."

With little delay, the state sen-

## In Minnesota

ator sent a draft of the bill back to Moorhouse. Meanwhile, Rep. Steve Sviggum, IR-Kenyon, coauthored the bill's counterpart in the House. By the end of the session, it became law.

Moorhouse called his idea "common sense."

"A lot of people wondered why it wasn't done earlier. I do, too," he said. "Georgia was the first place I really noticed it. Seventeen drops of water on the windshield and everybody has their lights on. Beautiful."

Some people still do not realize they must turn on headlights when it starts to drizzle. Others choose to skip the headlights if they are just making a short trip, but those are the times people need help the most, Moorhouse said.

"When are the accidents? Twenty-five miles within home," he said.

Moorhouse would like to see other driving laws implemented. He has participated in 55 Alive driving classes. Those classes are voluntary, but he supports mandatory retesting for all drivers at some point. People forget laws, fail to use turn signals and speed, he said. They need reminders.

"It boils right down to bad driving habits," he said.

Minnesota "inclement weather, lights-on" law took effect on August 1, 1990.  
Sioux Falls Argus Leader,  
Sioux Falls, MN,  
November 6, 1990

# CITY/STATE

## Headlight law might be reason for fewer traffic injuries

### Other factors can affect numbers

By PAUL KRAWZAK  
COPIES NEWS SERVICE

CHICAGO — The 26-month old headlight law may have reduced injury accidents, transportation officials say, but they can't be sure since many factors affect auto-related injuries.

Injury accidents did drop after Jan. 1, 1994, when the law took effect requiring headlights to be on during rain, snow, fog or other atmospheric conditions when windshield wipers are activated.

Injury accidents statewide dropped 22 percent from 7,501 in 1993 to 5,869 in 1994, officials said. At the same time, property damage accidents and collisions overall rose after the law took effect.

"You can see incoming cars better," said state Sen. Ralph Dunn, D-DuQuoin, Senate sponsor of the bill. The House sponsor, state Rep. Terrence Deering, D-DuQuoin, added that many drivers are not used to seeing oncoming traffic during inclement weather, without headlights on.

Rick Meyers, chief of accident information in the Illinois Department of Transportation, said the law may have helped reduce crashes on higher-speed roadways. It possibly has helped vehicles in rural areas become more visible and reduced some of the serious crashes.

That interpretation is bolstered by the experience of State Police-Capt. Dave Morgan, commander of the Champaign state police district. Since the law took effect, Morgan says about 90 percent of the drivers he sees on the high-speed interstate activate their headlights in the rain. In town it's much less, depending on the severity of the rain, he said.

The problem with the first-year analysis is that it does not consider other factors that affect the number of accidents and severity of injuries, including number of vehicles on the road, weather and use of seat belts and air bags.

National Weather Service data show there was less rain in Illinois in 1994, Meyers said.

From an enforcement standpoint, it appears that police issued relatively few tickets for violating the law.

Exact statistics on the number of convictions from the new law are unavailable because authorities group all headlight infractions together. That means, for example, that violations for driving without headlights at night are counted together with those for driving without headlights during a day rain.

Based on the number of violations from year to year, aides to Secretary of State George Ryan guess that few people are being convicted under the statute.

"I think you could draw an inference that there was not much of an increase (in violations) during the year that the law took effect," Ryan spokeswoman Cathy Monroe said.

During the past five years, headlight violation convictions have averaged about 5,000 a year statewide. There were 4,888 convictions in 1993, before the law took effect. There was only a slight increase to 5,017 in 1994, after it took effect.

The number of convictions from the headlight law is minuscule compared to other traffic violations.

Even though there have been few apparent convictions from the law in the first year, that doesn't mean the trend won't change in future years.

"He told me several other states had done this and had looked at it. The number of convictions multiplied in subsequent years, reaching a level of 38,000 to 50,000 a year in 1994."

State Sen. Bev Fawell, R-Glen Elgin, is chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee. Though initially doubtful of the law's worth, he went along with it because of Dunn's insistence.

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Illinois "windshield-wiper, lights-on" law took effect January 1, 1994.  
The State Journal-Register, Springfield, Ill., August 26, 1995

# LOCAL

## Windshield wiper activist may win

### 'Lights on' bill shows signs of life at Capitol

By Scott Miltred  
Legislative reporter

Steve Vincent thinks he has a bright idea that may finally light up at the state Capitol after 25 years of writing letters and bending ears.

Vincent, 43, of Madison, is pushing a bill that would require Wisconsin motorists to turn on their headlights whenever they activate their windshield wipers.

The proposed law, which some lawmakers dismiss as common sense, would nonetheless prod more drivers to switch on their lights when it's raining, snowing, sleeting or otherwise hard to see, Vincent said.

He started pushing the idea back in high school in the mid-'70s and hasn't let up. Twenty-five years of driving semitrucks, delivery vans and rental cars across Wisconsin and the nation has convinced him that accidents and injuries could be prevented if more cars were visible in bad weather.

"It's not so people will get a ticket," Vincent said. "It's more of an education thing. When you pass a law, people just seem to do it."

# Wipers

Continued from Page 1C

temporarily using wipers to clean windshields.

Brandemuehl, a member of the Highway Committee for 14 years, noted that the current version of the bill would prohibit police officers from pulling over drivers solely for not using headlights with wipers. Drivers would have to be stopped for some other reason, such as speeding or an accident. Brandemuehl also is happy that the bill places no mandates on vehicle manufacturers to build cars that automatically turn on headlights with wipers.

"I don't think it's going to change much," Brandemuehl said of the bill, "but some people will pay attention to it if they know it's the law."

Vincent's research suggests at least 33 states have similar rules. Illinois started requiring that lights be turned on with wipers in 1994. Violators in Illinois can be fined \$75. Minnesota has required that motorists use headlights during inclement weather since 1990. Violators there can be fined \$100.

Vincent, who now works for a Madison rental car company, said he's noticed that more motorists seem to use headlights in Illinois than Wisconsin. The Illinois Department of Transportation agrees and sees positive results.

Rick Meyers, a traffic safety specialist for the state of Illinois, said the number of crashes during inclement weather dropped from 15 percent to 13 percent the year after the headlights-with-wipers bill passed.

"I see this decrease occurring in the face of more vehicles out there traveling more miles," Meyers said. "There are certainly more people who have their headlights on now when the weather conditions are inclement as a result of the law."

The American Automobile Association of Wisconsin is lobbying for the cause. AAA randomly surveyed 661 of its 540,000 members in the state and found that 70 percent support the bill.

Rep. Steve Foti, R-Oconomowoc, the No. 2 Republican leader in the Assembly, said he hasn't scheduled the bill for a final vote. But he might if the bill's sponsors ask him to, he said. The Legislature is scheduled to adjourn for the year Thursday.

Vincent recently visited the Capitol for a final round of lobbying leaders. If his bill isn't taken up by the full Assembly, he'll continue the fight next session, he said.

"I just think it's a good idea," he said. "I don't understand why it's so difficult. I spoke to the lawmaker who got it through in Illinois, and he told me he had some of the same problems. He told me: 'Don't give up,' and I'm not going to."

Sunday, 3/26/2000

Dear Assembly Lawmakers: Please support Senate Bill 4 by contacting Rep. Steve Foti and asking him to schedule the bill for a final vote on the Assembly Floor. Please encourage your colleagues to vote in favor of Senate Bill 4. Thankyou! Sincerely, Steve Vinca

If you have any questions, please call me in Madison at (608) 241-5230  
My email address is: Vincent@datenet.wiscorp



For years, Steve Vincent of Madison has been pushing legislation that would require motorists to turn on their headlights whenever they use their windshield wipers. CRAIG SCHREINER/WISJ Photo