

SB 196 - DPH 01

good - 54
SB 200

January 4, 2001

TO: ALL LEGISLATORS

FROM: SENATOR JIM BAUMGART

RE: COSPONSORING LRB 0831/1 - relating to requiring headlights and other required lamps on vehicles to be lighted while windshield wipers are being used.

I will be reintroducing this legislation from last session that passed through the Senate committee and Senate as well as a recommendation from the Assembly Committee. Unfortunately, the session ended before the bill could receive final passage. The bill simply calls for motorists to turn on their headlights during times of ~~inclement weather~~.

when windshield wipers

If you would like to sign on to **LRB 0831/1**, please call my office at **6-2056** by **January 15, 2001**.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, no person may operate a vehicle upon a highway during hours of darkness unless any required headlamps, tail lamps, and clearance lamps of a vehicle are lighted. A person who violates this requirement may be required to pay a forfeiture of not less than \$10 nor more than \$20 for a first offense and not less than \$25 nor more than \$50 for a second or subsequent conviction within a year.

This bill provides that these lamps must also be lighted whenever the windshield wipers of the vehicle are being used, except during temporary use to clean the windshield or whenever headlamps that are automatically activated are lighted. A person who violates this provision is subject to the same minimum and maximum forfeiture amounts that may be imposed for failure to use these lamps during hours of darkness. The bill also prohibits a law enforcement officer from stopping or inspecting a vehicle solely to determine compliance with the above requirement and specifies that convictions for not having any required headlamps, tail lamps, and clearance lamps of a vehicle lighted may not be recorded on the motorist's driving record.

The bill also requires certain vehicles to be equipped with rear reflectors whenever the windshield wipers of a vehicle are being used.

For further information see the **state and local** fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

Alley, John

Post #	Date	# of pages
Fax Note #673	2/20/01	2
To	Pat	
Fax#	7-6796	
From	Julie Clark	
Phone#	6-2239	

From: Alley, John
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2001 2:16 PM
To: Brumund, Lorelee
Cc: Thompson, Doug; Clark, Julie; Esser, Georg
 McCormick, Marjorie
Subject: SB 19 - DMV Comments
Importance: High

Donna,

Lorelee,

We suggest attaching a technical memo to SB 19 addressing our concerns as follows:

SB19 Concerns

The language requiring "lights on when wipers are on" is included in the general "no or improper lights violation" paragraph of the statutes. A violation of this new requirement may not be placed on the driver record and no points may be assessed. All other violations under this paragraph are recorded on the driver record and result in three demerit points. This presents a processing problem for DMV for both paper citations and electronically transmitted citations.

- Paper Citations (Approximately 90% of workload and shrinking) - We can differentiate between "Wiper" light violations and others but it is a completely manual sorting process with workload implications.
Workload Impact - (9000 IL violations x 1.37 MPU) = (12,330 minutes/60 minutes in an hour) = 205.5 hours/1725 = 12 FTE
- Electronic Citations (Approximately 10% and growing) - We have no easy way to differentiate between "windshield" light violations and others because they are in the same statutory paragraph.

Possible Solutions

Either make these violations part of the driving record with demerit points or move them to their own statutory paragraph to allow automated sorting.

Rationale

At the Governor's request, legislators, WisDOT, courts, law enforcement officers, and others recently rewrote many areas of traffic law (1997 Act 84) to build more consistency in the statutes. Act 84 eliminated or split out long paragraphs with variable penalties to assist law enforcement, courts, and DMV in doing their work accurately and efficiently. SB 19 creates this type of a problem the way it is currently written.

In addition, this proposal in its current state works against statewide efforts to automate the citation reporting system.

If the legislature believes these violations are as serious as other light usage violations in the same paragraph, we suggest allowing DMV to assign 3 points and place them on the record.

If the legislature believes these are less serious violations, we suggest moving them to their own paragraph to avoid confusion in the statutes and to allow law enforcement, courts and DMV to handle them more efficiently.

Thanks,

John

Convictions and/or Withdrawals Code	Abbr.	Charge	Demerit Points	HTO	Convictions and/or Withdrawals Code	Abbr.	Charge	Demerit Points	HTO
34	IIV	Intoxicant in Vehicle - Underage Person 346.93	0		120	NHI	Negligent Homicide Intoxicated 940.09	0-m	MAJOR
		Improper Lights 346.48(2)(b)1, (2)(b)2, (2)(bm), (2)(c), 346.595(5) nighttime, 347.06(1)(3), 347.07, 347.09, 347.10(2), 347.11(1), (2), (3), (4), 347.115(night), 347.13(1), 347.14, 347.15(1), 347.16(1)(a), (b), (2)(a), 347.25(1), (1m), (1r), (a), (1s), (2), (4), (5), 347.255(1), (3), 347.26(2)(a)(b), (3)(a)(b), (4)(a)(b), (6)(a)(b), (8), (9), (11)(a), 347.489(1) (motor bicycles)	3	MINOR	44	OAR	Operating after Revocation 343.44(1)(b)	3	MINOR
		Improper Lights 346.55(5) daylight hours, 347.13(3)	0		174	OCS	OWI - Controlled Substance 346.63(1)(a)	6-m	MAJOR
36	IM	Improper Muffler 347.39(1), (2), 347.486(3)	0		47	OEL	Operating w/expired license OWL after 7-1-81		
37	IP	Improper Plates 341.045, 341.15(1), (1m)(a), (b), (2)(a), (b), (c), 341.61(2), (3), (4), (5)	0		107	OII	Operating while Intoxicated causing Injury: 346.63(2)(a)1, (2)(a)2	6-m	MAJOR
38	IR	Illegal Riding (passenger - 0 points) 346.595(1), (5), 347.487	2	MINOR	175	OML	Operating with Multiple Licenses 343.05(1)	3	MINOR
39	IS	Imprudent Speed 346.57(2)	4	MINOR	209	ORS	Operating while Registration Suspended 341.03(1)	0	
77	IT	Illegal Turn 346.31(1), (2), (3), (4), 346.32, 346.33(1)(a), (b), (c), (2), 346.34(1)(a)1, 2, 346.37(1)(c)3	3	MINOR	48	OSB	Operating w/o School Bus License/ Endorsement: 343.12(1)(a)	3	MINOR
41	IUL	Illegal use of Operator's License 343.43(1)(a), (c), (e), (f)	0-m		49	OT	Obstructing Traffic 346.59(1), (2)	2	MINOR
112	IYO	Intoxicant in Vehicle-operator 346.935(1), (2), (3)	0		50	OV	Obstructed View or Control 346.88(1), (3), (4)	2	MINOR
113	IYP	Intoxicant in Vehicle-passenger 346.935(1), (2), (3)	0		80	OWE	Operating w/o Cycle License. 343.05(3)(b), (c)	3	MINOR
103	JA	Juvenile Alcohol 125.07(4)(a), (4)(b), 125.08(2)	0		52	OWS	Operating while Suspended 343.44(1)(a)	3	MINOR
178	JCS	Juvenile Controlled Substances Ch. 961 - Under 17 yrs. on date of violation.	0		56	P	Perjury	0-m	MAJOR
111	JID	Juvenile ID 125.085(3)(b)	0		* 183	OWD	Operating While Disqualified/ Out of Service 343.44(1)(d), 343.44(1)(c)	3	MINOR
43	LOL	Loaning of License 343.43(1)(b)	0-m		55	OWI	Operating under influence of Intoxicant or Controlled Substance 346.63(1)(a), (b)	6-m	MAJOR
* 177	MDD	Manufacture & Delivery of Drugs Ch. 961	0		53	OWL	Operating w/o Driver License 343.05(3)(a), (b), (c)	3	MINOR
* 180	MDP	Manufacture/Delivery of Drug Paraphernalia. Ch. 961	0		212	PAC	Prohibited Alcohol Concentration 346.63(1)(b)	6	
204	MDO	Miscellaneous Driving Offenses 346.15, 346.39(2), 346.90, 346.922 346.94(13)	0		* 176	PCS	Possession of Controlled Substances	0	
40	MSC	Miscellaneous 341.03(1), 341.605(1), (2), 341.615 343.16(7)(b) suspension, 341.335(1), 343.22(1), (2)(a), (b), (2m), 343.35(1), 344.45(1), 346.55(1), 346.94(13), 346.09(1), 346.10(1), (2), (3)(3m), (4), (5)(a), (b), (c), 347.489(3)	0		* 179	PDP	Possession of Drug Paraphernalia Ch. 961	0	
45	NH	Negligent Homicide 940.06, 940.10	0-m	MAJOR	88	PI	Passing Illegally 346.07(2), (3), 346.075(1), (2), 346.08(1), (2), (3), 346.09(1), (2), (3), (4), 346.10, 346.11, 346.24(3), 346.48(3)	3	MINOR
					59	POH	Parking on Highway (minor on or after 12/20/89) 346.475, 346.51(1), 346.52(1)(f), 347.27, 347.29(4), (5)	2	MINOR
					59	POH	Parking off Highway 346.51(1)	0	MINOR
					78	PRS	Point Reduction School (maximum)	3	
					61	PUP	Permitting Unauthorized Person to Operate: 343.45(1), (2), 346.925(1)	0	
					62	R	Racing 346.94(2)	6	MINOR

FEB 21 2001

Sen. Baumgard



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

Feb 21, 2001

TO: Sen. Roger Breske, Chairman,
and Members of the Senate Committee on Insurance, Tourism and Transportation

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

RE: AAA Wisconsin Support for Senate Bill 19 ("wipers-on/lights-on")

Good morning, Chairman Breske and members of the committee. Thank you for this opportunity to express AAA's support for S.B. 19, 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 578,000 AAA members in our state—I strongly urge you to give this legislation your favorable consideration.

This bill is, as you know, a "perennial." As you are also likely aware, a similar bill, 1999 Senate Bill 4, was passed by the Senate and concurred in by the Assembly Highway Safety Committee in the last legislative session. Because this measure touches on a practice that seems to be simple common sense, at points some have even cast it as unimportant, however. Quite to the contrary, AAA holds that this sort of law can have a highly positive impact in reinforcing appropriate driver practice when visual conspicuity is most important—in bad weather. AAA Wisconsin, therefore, strongly urges your support for S.B. 19.

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 the vehicle's windshield wipers are in operation. AAA's position on this issue stems from the common-sense understanding that it is 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 is an idea about which, I believe, highway safety advocates would find it relatively easy to educate the state's driving public. And it is an idea that would improve traffic safety in our state. After enduring 803 traffic fatalities in Wisconsin last year, this is improvement our state could use.

Late last year, AAA Wisconsin conducted an opinion survey among a random sample of our members. In that survey we asked several questions related to traffic safety and potential legislation intended to improve it. Of 543 randomly selected members who completed this mail survey, 529 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 76 percent of respondents indicated they favored such a wipers-on/lights-on law; 24 percent were opposed.

(--MORE--)

AAA WISCONSIN--SUPPORT FOR S.B. 19--PAGE TWO

I believe one reason our members support a wipers-on/lights-on law is because they experience too many drivers not using headlamps in bad weather. Also, please note our members expressed their support even without mention of the secondary-enforcement-only aspect of S.B. 19 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.

At least 14 states--Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia--have some form of wipers-on/lights-on law. 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 dramatic decrease. This crash 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. More importantly, this crash reduction meant lives were saved and injuries were reduced, and the wipers-on/lights-on law helped to make it so.

One of the real benefits of a wipers-on/lights-on law would be the ease with which it can be communicated to and understood by all motorists. The law would reduce ambiguity about times when headlamp use is required for safe driving. AAA Wisconsin would welcome the opportunity to use our member magazine, *Home & Away*--which circulates to more than 360,000 Wisconsin households--to help educate the motoring public about this common-sense change.

AAA Wisconsin urges your support for S.B. 19, and I thank you for considering AAA's position on this issue.



**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
AMENDMENT MEMO**

2001 Senate Bill 19

**Senate Substitute
Amendment 1**

Memo published: February 27, 2001

Contact: Joyce L. Kiel, Senior Staff Attorney (266-3137)

CURRENT LAW

Current law provides that no person may operate a vehicle upon a highway during “hours of darkness”¹ unless required headlamps, tail lamps, and clearance lamps are lighted. Current law does not explicitly require that these lamps be lighted whenever the windshield wipers are being used.

2001 SENATE BILL 19

Senate Bill 19 provides that, subject to certain exceptions, required headlamps, tail lamps, and clearance lamps of a vehicle must be lighted whenever the windshield wipers are being used.² The bill provides that a person who violates this requirement is subject to a forfeiture of not less than \$10 nor more than \$20 for the first offense and not less than \$25 nor more than \$50 for the second or subsequent conviction within a year.

The bill provides that the driving records kept by the Department of Transportation may not include any record of a conviction for violating this requirement.

The bill also prohibits a law enforcement officer from stopping or inspecting a vehicle solely to determine compliance with this requirement. However, the bill does not limit the authority of a law

¹ “Hours of darkness” means the period of time from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise and all other times when there is not sufficient natural light to render clearly visible any person or vehicle upon a highway at a distance of 500 feet. [s. 340.01 (23), Stats.]

² Exceptions are made: (a) for temporary use of wipers to clean windshields; (b) if certain lights are automatically activated when the vehicle is in use; (c) on a towed vehicle or on a vehicle with two lighted adverse weather lamps; and (d) for a duly authorized warden under certain circumstances.

enforcement officer to issue a citation for a violation observed in the course of a stop or inspection made for other purposes. The bill further provides that a law enforcement officer may not take a person into physical custody solely for a violation of this requirement.

SENATE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1

Senate Substitute Amendment 1 makes no substantive changes to the bill but simply creates the requirement to light headlamps, tail lamps, and clearance lamps with windshield wiper use in a separate section of the statutes (s. 347.065, Stats.), rather than including it in s. 347.06, Stats., which relates to when lighted lamps are required.

The Senate Committee on Insurance, Tourism, and Transportation recommended adoption of Senate Substitute Amendment 1 (Ayes, 5; Noes, 0) and recommended passage of the bill, as amended (Ayes, 4; Noes, 1).

JLK:ksm:tlu

Talking Points for Senate Bill 19 Floor Debate 3/13/2001

General Provisions of SB 19

- Requires the use of headlights when the windshield wipers are in use.
 - Exceptions – for general cleaning of the windshield and for headlights that are automatically activated.
- Creates a fine of not less than \$10 nor more than \$20
- The bill calls for secondary enforcement only. An individual may not be pulled over simply for a violation of this section.
- Is not added to the individual's driving record.
- ❖ Intent of the Legislation is to educate not punish. Therefore, I do not want the penalties to be excessively harsh.

Senate Substitute Amendment 1, to SB 19:

- The substitute amendment makes no substantive changes to the bill.
- The original bill created this violation in a statute that includes a penalty of 3 demerit points.
 - I did not intend for demerit points to be a part of the penalty.
- The substitute creates the requirement to light headlights when the windshield wipers are in use in a separate section as to avoid the additional demerit point penalty.

Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Substitute Amendment 1 to SB 19:

- This amendment exempts the violation from all assessments and add on fees that most fines are subject to. The end result is a flat fine with no add ons.
 - Rationale – Because a violation of this section was not meant to be punitive and therefore it was thought better to have a flat fee without being subjected to the assessments and add ons.
- If anyone complains about the repeater clause – point out that the 1st violation does not go on the individuals driving record and therefore there will never technically be a 2nd offense.



**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
AMENDMENT MEMO**

2001 Senate Bill 19

**Senate Substitute
Amendment 1, As Amended by
Senate Amendment 1**

Memo published: March 16, 2001

Contact: Joyce L. Kiel, Senior Staff Attorney (266-3137)

Current law provides that no person may operate a vehicle upon a highway during “hours of darkness”¹ unless required headlamps, tail lamps, and clearance lamps are lighted. Current law does not explicitly require that these lamps be lighted whenever the windshield wipers are being used.

Senate Substitute Amendment 1 to 2001 Senate Bill 19, as amended by Senate Amendment 1 to the substitute amendment, provides that, subject to certain exceptions, a vehicle’s required headlamps, tail lamps, and clearance lamps must be lighted whenever the windshield wipers are being used.² The amended bill provides that a person who violates this requirement is subject to a forfeiture of not less than \$10 nor more than \$20 for the first offense and not less than \$25 nor more than \$50 for the second or subsequent conviction within a year.

The amended bill makes an exception to the imposition of various assessments and fees which generally apply under current law when a court imposes a forfeiture for a violation of various state laws or municipal or county ordinances enacted in conformity with state law. (The exception is the same as the exception for assessments and fees for a seatbelt use violation under s. 347.48 (2m), Stats.) Under the amended bill, the following fees and assessments would *not* apply for violating the requirement to use lights when windshield wipers are being used: (a) crime laboratories and law enforcement assessment--\$5; (b) jail assessment--1% of the forfeiture or \$10, whichever is greater; (c) penalty assessment--23% of the forfeiture; (d) court fee for forfeiture action in circuit court--\$25; (e) court fee

¹ “Hours of darkness” means the period of time from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise and all other times when there is not sufficient natural light to render clearly visible any person or vehicle upon a highway at a distance of 500 feet. [s. 340.01 (23), Stats.]

² Exceptions are made: (a) for temporary use of wipers to clean windshields; (b) if certain lights are automatically activated when the vehicle is in use; (c) on a towed vehicle or on a vehicle with two lighted adverse weather lamps; and (d) for a duly authorized warden under certain circumstances.

for forfeiture action in circuit court for violation of municipal ordinance--\$5; (f) court support services fee--\$40; (g) justice information system fee--\$9; (h) in Milwaukee County circuit court, special prosecution clerks fee--\$2; and (i) municipal court costs fee--\$15 to \$23.

The amended bill provides that the driving records kept by the Department of Transportation may not include any record of a conviction for violating the requirement to use lights when windshield wipers are being used.

The amended bill also prohibits a law enforcement officer from stopping or inspecting a vehicle solely to determine compliance with this requirement. However, it does not limit the authority of a law enforcement officer to issue a citation for a violation observed in the course of a stop or inspection made for other purposes. The amended bill further provides that a law enforcement officer may not take a person into physical custody solely for a violation of this requirement.

The Senate adopted Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Substitute Amendment 1, adopted the substitute amendment, and passed the bill, as amended, all by voice vote.

JLK:ksm:tlj;jal

Oshkosh Northwestern - Story - 3/26/01

State considering windshield wiper law

By Jim Collar
of the Northwestern

Supporters of a long-debated auto safety bill are confident the State Legislature will agree Wisconsin drivers should leave car headlights on during times of poor visibility.

The Wisconsin Senate passed a bill that required drivers to turn on their headlights during any weather that requires windshield wipers. If passed by the Assembly and signed into law, it would include an exception for drivers using wipers to clean their windshields on fair-weather days.

An Assembly hearing on a version of the bill is expected within the next month, bill sponsor Sen. James Baumgart, D-Sheboygan, said.

The state has considered similar bills. However, Baumgart said he expects this one to pass.

"The bill has gotten closer and closer each time it's been introduced," Baumgart said. "It has bi-partisan support and we have plenty of time, so I think we have a very good chance."

Current state law requires headlight use during hours of darkness.

A poll by the American Automobile Association of Wisconsin showed that 76 percent of the state's residents would be in favor of the law.

Oshkosh drivers said provisions of the bill are nothing more than common sense.

Lin Schrottke of Oshkosh said it's a common reaction to turn on the

headlights when it becomes difficult to see the road.

"I guess if it will improve visibility, it's a good idea," Schrottke said. "Just as long as it doesn't lead to a lot full of dead batteries after people forget to turn their lights off."

Too many drivers don't use the common sense to turn on their lights every time they should, supporters said.

Steve Vincent, a former truck and school bus driver from Madison, has been pushing for the state to pass the law for more than 25 years.

Vincent said there have been countless times where he hasn't seen cars because drivers didn't have their headlights on during rain, sleet, fog and other conditions.

Like the seatbelt law, the windshield wiper law would use small fines as a means to urge use, Vincent said.

Fines of \$10 to \$20 for a first offense are proposed for those who ignore the law. The law would also require secondary enforcement, meaning police could issue tickets if they were pulled over for a separate offense.

Similar laws are already in place in more than 30 states, Vincent said.

(END)

Fine for Excess Baiting during Deer gun/bow season.

- Warden's make suggestions to the Judicial Conference who set the fine.
 - Right now the total fine is \$204.80 but the courts can raise it to \$1000 if the person contests the fine and they deem it necessary.
 - \$60.00 Fine
 - \$13.80 Penalty Assessment
 - \$86.00 Court Costs
 - \$45.00 Resource Assessment
- \$204.80 Total

- ⇒ What do you want the Minimum fine to be?
- ⇒ What do you want the Maximum fine to be?

- Spoke with Patronsky: He warned not to make the fine too much because it might deter the Warden's from handing out the fine.
- He also said that we will need to add language such as "no one may bait deer in violation of DNR rules that prohibit such actions" because there is no language already in the statutes that refers to baiting of deer.

MAY 18 2001

#115
5000 Grandview Blvd
Racine, WI 53406
May 17, 2001

Dear Senator Baumgart -

As I attend yearly meetings of AARP
+ 50 state programs our first gripe is
usually cars not using lights during
daylight hours on foggy/rainy
days

Minnesota and Illinois have a
mandatory state law.

I wrote to Sen Scott McCallum
in April and enclose his reply.

Also four signed petition sheets
which I hope will encourage the
prompt passage of SB #19.

Thank you for your attention

Sincerely

Christine R Voigt

P.S. Sent some copies to Rep Ainsworth

Enc: 5 copies



SCOTT McCALLUM

Governor
State of Wisconsin

April 6, 2001

Ms. Christine R. Voigt
5000 Graceland Blvd.
Racine, Wisconsin 53406

Dear Ms. Voigt:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning drivers who fail to use their headlights when driving in rain or fog. I appreciate you're your thoughts and concerns.

As you know, current Wisconsin law requires the use of vehicle headlamps only during the hours of darkness. Senate Bill 19, which requires the use of headlamps on motor vehicles during periods of reduced visibility, such as rain, snow, or fog, has passed the Wisconsin State Senate and has now moved to the Assembly for consideration. In addition, Assembly Bills 16 and 82 were recently introduced in the Wisconsin State Assembly and contain similar language.

Senator Baumgart and Representative Ainsworth are the primary sponsors of SB 19. In addition to contacting your own legislators, I encourage you to contact either Senator Baumgart, at P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882, or Representative Ainsworth, at P.O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53707-8952, to express your support for this bill.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact my office with your concerns.

Sincerely,

Scott McCallum
Governor

SM/jmr

IN THE INTEREST OF SAFER DRIVING PRACTICES.....

We the undersigned, applaud and support Senate Bill 19 requiring the use of headlamps on motor vehicles during periods of reduced visibility, such as rain, snow or fog. It has passed the Wisconsin State Senate and has now moved to the Assembly for consideration.

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>DATE</u>
1.	Ruth Jackel	4605 Byrd Ave	Racine	5-5-01
2.	Chf Cawick	4605 Byrd Ave	Racine	5-5-01
3.	Nancy T. Elsmo	6439 Durand Ave.	Racine	5-7-01
4.	Jo Ann Rosen	1916 Wisconsin Ave #11	Racine	5-7-01
5.	Pat J. Hansen	1221 N. Main St.	Racine	5-7-01
6.	Fred Tate	9848 Lakeshore Dr.	Pl. Prairie	5-7-01
7.	Mary CRizzo	7737-55 th Ave Ave	Pl Prairie	5-7-01
8.	Martha Krummer	2901 Lincolnwood Dr.	Racine	5-7-01
9.	Moran MacLaughlin	3732 Ruby Ave.	Racine 53402	5-7-01
10.	Pat Koraak	5208. 83 St	Kenosha	5-7-01
11.	Mary Knight	8930 Washburn Ave	Racine	5-7-01
12.	Donna Najokas	25203 121 St.	Treasar	5-7-01
13.	Beulah Friedrich	1121 Jafferson St.	Racine	5-7-01
14.	Jane Nelson	4008 - 91st St	Kenosha	5-7-01
15.	Sandy Vincent	5800 - 3rd Ave.	"	"
16.	Ruth Grand	7510 - 6th Ave	Kenosha	5-7-01
17.	Betty Schwartz	7521 - 6th Ave	Kenosha	5-7-01
18.	Bob Fisher	1201 S. Wisconsin Ave	Racine	5-7-01
19.	Glades Sutzman	3416 - 9th Ave	Racine	5/7/01
20.	Margaret Miller	3315 Olympia Dr.	Racine	5/7/01
21.	Judson Prochaska	49 - Oregon St	Racine	5/7/01
22.	V. Beulinger	111 Eleventh & BS	Racine	5/7/01
23.	Annall	5706 - 68th St	Kenosha	5/7/01
24.	Carl Waller	1732 Park Ave	Racine	5/7/01
25.	Joan Burns	4710 - Schoen Rd	Union Grove	5/7/01

IN THE INTEREST OF SAFER DRIVING PRACTICES.....

We the undersigned, applaud and support Senate Bill 19 requiring the use of headlamps on motor vehicles during periods of reduced visibility, such as rain, snow or fog. It has passed the Wisconsin State Senate and has now moved to the Assembly for consideration.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>DATE</u>
1. <u>Nancy J. Holmlund</u>	<u>5632 Combs Ln #1</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5-5-01</u>
2. <u>Uras Faste</u>	<u>4107 16th</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5-5-01</u>
3. <u>James L. Delozore</u>	<u>3425 Lee Lane</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5-5-01</u>
4. <u>Carolyn M. Guehgen</u>	<u>1400 Orchard St</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5-5-01</u>
5. <u>Pat Foster</u>	<u>4107-16th St</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5-5-01</u>
6. <u>Helen Tessmann</u>	<u>2463 21st</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5-5-01</u>
7. <u>Helen Jensen</u>	<u>4010 16th St</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5-5-01</u>
8. <u>Regina Zarembo</u>	<u>4115-16th St</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5-5-01</u>
9. <u>Bonnie Broemer</u>	<u>4115 16th St.</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5-5-01</u>
10. <u>Jean Markiewicz</u>	<u>1390 16th St</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5-5-01</u>
11. <u>Marian Kelmik</u>	<u>6755 Mariner Dr #2</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5-5-01</u>
12. <u>Hellen Peres</u>	<u>6930 Mariner Dr</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>5-5-01</u>
13. <u>Veronica Bacciotti</u>	<u>2512 Jean Dr</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5-5-01</u>
14. <u>Julia G. Bernhardt</u>	<u>3220 91st St.</u>	<u>Sturtevant</u>	<u>5-5-01</u>
15. <u>Elie Howard</u>	<u>1505 Windsor Way</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5-5-01</u>
16. <u>Erna Jossing</u>	<u>2518 Pinhurst Ave</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5-5-01</u>
17. <u>Herb Schmidt</u>	<u>2820 Durand Ave</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5-5-01</u>
18. <u>Doreen Wuerker</u>	<u>3118 Conval Dr</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5-5-01</u>
19. <u>Ray Wuerker</u>	<u>3118 Conval Dr</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5-5-01</u>
20. <u>Al Tru</u>	<u>2621 Gellen</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5-5-01</u>
21. <u>Sophie Waitach</u>	<u>3609 S Elmwood</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5-5-01</u>
22. <u>Charles Clark</u>	<u>2318 Hamilton Av.</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5-5-01</u>
23. <u>Rosemary Stapelman</u>	<u>1916 Wisconsin</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5-5-01</u>
24. <u>Nancy Nelson</u>	<u>1909 De Lauer</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5-5-01</u>
25. <u>Bernice L. Hooper</u>	<u>1102 Mountain Hills Dr</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>5-5-01</u>

IN THE INTEREST OF SAFER DRIVING PRACTICES.....

We the undersigned, applaud and support Senate Bill 19 requiring the use of headlamps on motor vehicles during periods of reduced visibility, such as rain, snow or fog. It has passed the Wisconsin State Senate and has now moved to the Assembly for consideration.

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>DATE</u>
1.	<u>Lloyd Johnson</u>	<u>P.O. Box 88</u>	<u>Somers</u>	<u>5-7-01</u>
2.	<u>Helle Johnson</u>	<u>P.O. Box 88</u>	<u>Somers</u>	<u>5-7-01</u>
3.	<u>Pat Formella</u>	<u>5304-87th Pl.</u>	<u>Pleasant Prairie</u>	<u>5-7-01</u>
4.	<u>Helen Formella</u>	<u>5304 87th Pl.</u>	<u>Pleasant Prairie</u>	<u>5-7-01</u>
5.	<u>Helen Huntwood</u>	<u>8001-43rd Ave</u>	<u>Kenosha</u>	<u>5-07-01</u>
6.	<u>Eloise Ditz</u>	<u>307 Spring Dr</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5-07-01</u>
7.	<u>Donald Klein</u>	<u>4401 68th St</u>	<u>Kenosha</u>	<u>5/7/01</u>
8.	<u>Margaret Klein</u>	<u>4401 68th St</u>	<u>Kenosha</u>	<u>5-7-01</u>
9.	<u>Cora Ann Haugli</u>	<u>11418 79th Place</u>	<u>Pleasant Prairie</u>	<u>5-7-01</u>
10.	<u>Mary Shanklin</u>	<u>P.O. Box 216</u>	<u>Kansasville</u>	<u>5-7-01</u>
11.	<u>Pat Kaldas</u>	<u>1214 Illinois St</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5/8/01</u>
12.	<u>Beth Dugan</u>	<u>3320 S. Elmwood Dr.</u>	<u>Racine ⁵³⁴⁰⁵</u>	<u>5/8/01</u>
13.	<u>Doug Imstam</u>	<u>1633 Deane Blvd</u>	<u>Racine ⁰⁵</u>	<u>5/8/01</u>
14.	<u>Norman C. Wicks</u>	<u>502 South Green Bay Rd.</u>	<u>Racine ⁰⁶</u>	<u>5/8/01</u>
15.	<u>Warry Smith</u>	<u>1525W. Iowa Ave</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5/8/01</u>
16.	<u>Scott Tench</u>	<u>6203-37ave.</u>	<u>Kenosha</u>	<u>5/8/01</u>
17.	<u>Yvonne Baker</u>	<u>809 HARVEY DR</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5/8/01</u>
18.	<u>Juanita Anderson</u>	<u>620 West Blvd</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5/8/01</u>
19.	<u>Clayton Johnson</u>	<u>6230 Precedent Ln</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5-8-01</u>
20.	<u>Cl Bumpert</u>	<u>5055 Valley Trail</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5-8-01</u>
21.	<u>Christene R Voegt</u>	<u>5000 Graceland Blvd</u>	<u>Racine ⁵³⁴⁰⁶</u>	
22.	<u>Grace Kimpel</u>	<u>5000 Graceland</u>	<u>Racine ⁵³⁴⁰⁶</u>	
23.	<u>Lorria Wilder</u>	<u>5000 Graceland Blvd</u>	<u>Racine ⁵³⁴⁰⁶</u>	
24.	<u>James R. Lindhart</u>	<u>5000 Graceland Blvd</u>	<u>Racine ⁵³⁴⁰⁶</u>	
25.	<u>Charlotte Sorenson</u>	<u>5000 Graceland Blvd</u>	<u>Racine ⁵³⁴⁰⁶</u>	

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	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>DATE</u>
1.	<u>William R. Ulrich</u>	<u>718 Orchard St</u>	<u>Racine WI</u>	<u>5/5/01</u>
2.	<u>Veronette Holzst</u>	<u>1628 Grove Ave</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>"</u>
3.	<u>Lillian Wolff</u>	<u>3525 Taylor</u>	<u>Elmwood</u>	<u>5/5/01</u>
4.	<u>Mildred Bauer</u>	<u>5000 Graceland ^{Bldg}</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5/5/01</u>
5.	<u>Peggy Clark</u>	<u>2318 Xenetta Ave</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5/5/01</u>
6.	<u>Bernice Bloch</u>	<u>2300 Nelson St</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5/5/01</u>
7.	<u>Louise Wakefield</u>	<u>1916 WIS AVE</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>5/5/01</u>
8.	<u>Betty Larson</u>	<u>2250 Layard Ave #110</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>5/5/01</u>
9.	<u>Helen Macemon</u>	<u>4310 Kennedy St</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>53406</u>
10.	<u>Alice Locklin</u>	<u>5000 Graceland #121</u>		
11.	<u>Bill Marsh</u>	<u>2631 Mariner Dr #</u>	<u>Racine</u>	
12.	<u>Virginia Hayes</u>	<u>15941 DURAND AVE 27</u>	<u>UNION GROVE</u>	<u>53182</u>
13.	<u>Lindell Hayes</u>	<u>" "</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>"</u>
14.	<u>Juniper Stalton</u>	<u>5000 Graceland Blvd</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>53406</u>
15.	<u>L. Martin</u>	<u>1416 Breeze Sun</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>53406</u>
16.	<u>Dorina Habegger</u>	<u>5000 Graceland Blvd</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>53406</u>
17.	<u>Patricia Hiskerchen</u>	<u>6804 Durand Ave</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>53406</u>
18.	<u>Rita J. Brinkman</u>	<u>1430 Villa St</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>53403</u>
19.	<u>John Brinkman</u>	<u>1430 Villa St.</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>53403</u>
20.	<u>Shary Johnson</u>	<u>553 Mulberry</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>53402</u>
21.	<u>Milled Selne</u>	<u>6609 Explorer</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>53406</u>
22.	<u>Shirley Nelson</u>	<u>4933 Kensington Ct</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>53402</u>
23.	<u>Mary Byers</u>	<u>4808 Charles</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>53402</u>
24.	<u>Bud Luter</u>	<u>219 Robin Hill</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>53406</u>
25.	<u>Ed Bauer</u>	<u>5000 Graceland</u>	<u>Racine</u>	<u>53406</u>

Windshield wiper activist may win

'Lights on' bill shows signs of life at Capitol

By Scott Milfred
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."

The proposal has wallowed in legislative committees for decades. But late last year, with some fine tuning, it passed the Senate on a 20-13 vote. It cleared the Assembly Highway Committee for the first time on a 6-1 vote

this month and could be scheduled for a final Assembly vote next week.

"This is probably the least onerous of all of the versions brought forward," said Rep. David Brandemuehl, R-Fennimore, who has repeatedly opposed the bill in the past but now supports it.

Current law requires motorists to turn on their headlights "during the hours of darkness." Violators can be fined \$10 to \$20 for their first offense, and \$25 to \$50 for a second offense within a year of the first.

Vincent's bill, with supporters including Sen. James Baumgart, D-Sheboygan, and Rep. John Ainsworth, R-Shawano, would issue the same fines for failing to turn on lights when using windshield wipers. Drivers would be exempt from the law when

Please see WIPERS, Page 7C



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/WSJ photo

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.'"

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's 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

This bill has been before
us many times. Last session

This legislation passed the
senate under the ^{able} leadership
of Senator Rude.

~~But~~ in the assembly a hearing

was held but the chair

of that committee wanted

to wait. With the increased

number of cars that automatically

have their lights on, I think

that committee may be willing

to make the legislation because

it will provide a utility that

WILL MAKE DRIVING SAFER.

NOT SO LONG AGO WE RAISED
THE SPEED LIMIT ON SOME
ROADS FROM 55 TO 65. THAT
ADDITIONAL SPEED, ESPECIALLY
DURING UNPLEASANT WEATHER,
IS ANOTHER REASON TO MOVE
FORWARD TO PASS SENATE BILL 4.

Good Morning Chairman Breske and
Committee Members:

As a bus driver and former trucker, I have noticed many drivers on Wisconsin highways who often fail to use their headlights during inclement weather conditions. This makes these unlit vehicles very hard to see both through my windows and in my mirrors.

In March, I was featured on the front page of Madison's Wisconsin State Journal's "Local" page. The newspaper writer dubbed this proposed law, "Vincent's Bill". The article discusses how I've been advocating for this highway safety measure since high school.

In the January 26, 2001 edition of the Madison Isthmus newspaper's News &

(over)

Comment Page titled, "The Legislature, Bills that won't die" states that "the effort to require automobile headlights whenever windshield wipers are running has shown a considerable staying power. Despite a series of defeats due to legislation indifference, the idea keeps coming back, and gathering strength. This session, the prospects for passage seem better than ever."

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 19. Thank you for your time and support!

Sincerely,

Steve Vincent

(608)249-5230

Steve Vincent
301 North Third Street, #205
Madison, WI 53704
March 25, 1999

Senator James Baumgart
306 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Jim,

Thank you for introducing a Senate bill that would require Wisconsin motorists to use their vehicle headlights when weather conditions require the need for windshield wiper use. I gave you information supporting this proposal in the last legislative session. The proposal passed in the Senate, but failed to pass in the Assembly.

At least 33 states have similar windshield-wiper, lights-on laws. Many of these states also extended the hours of darkness statute to include the period from, "dusk to dawn". The present Wisconsin hours of darkness statute only includes the period from, "1/2 hour AFTER dusk to 1/2 hour BEFORE dawn". Many motorists fail to turn on their vehicle headlights early enough at dusk or keep them on past dawn. Others decide to operate their vehicles with only their dim parking lights on which is not a good idea. Extending Wisconsin's, hours of darkness statute to the period from, "dusk to dawn" really helps encourage motorists to use their headlights earlier at dusk, discourages parking light use, and encourages them to keep their headlights on past sunrise.

Will you amend the proposed Senate windshield-wiper, lights-on bill to also extend the hours of darkness statute to include the period from, "dusk to dawn"?

The argument against a state windshield-wiper, dusk to dawn, lights-on law is unnecessary because all new vehicles will be equipped with daytime running lights (DRL) in the United States soon is simply not true. I've been extensively studying the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's position on DRL and they seem reluctant to require DRL on new vehicles manufactured in the United States and they may propose lower intensity DRLs.

I have more information on the benefits of a Wisconsin windshield-wiper, dusk to dawn, lights-on law. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel to contact me at the address above, or by phoning me at (608) 249-5230. Thank you for your continued interest in auto safety.

Sincerely,



Steve Vincent

Henderson, Patrick

From: wlp@marten.com
Sent: Friday, December 17, 1999 10:53 AM
To: Sen.Baumgart@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: comment

Senator Baumgart: Having reviewed some current bills, and ran across Senate Bill 4 I believe it is, about head lights on a vehicle. I suport your intent to have these lights on while the wipers are also on. One of our drivers even suggested to have the lights hooked to the wiper switch so they came on automaticly. If I can be of assistance please contact me.

Wayne Parnham
Compliance Manager
Marten Transport
Mondovi, WI 54755
PH 1-800-395-3000 ext 2269

The text you are using, we cand decipher, come in looking like chineese. Here is one for you though. what dothe Vikings and a junk car have in common. NO TITLE

AKK
How many cars are
driving with lights on?
Answer, underhanded
~~Rule~~ Rule

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

STATEMENT OF REP. JIM BAUMGART -- PUBLIC HEARING -- January 29, 1998 re:

ASSEMBLY BILL 322, relating to requiring headlights and other required lamps on vehicles to be lighted while windshield wipers are being used.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss Assembly Bill 322 – a bill that will increase automobile and pedestrian safety. ^{SB 4}
About 3 years ago
Last fall, 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 from Highway 47 or 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!

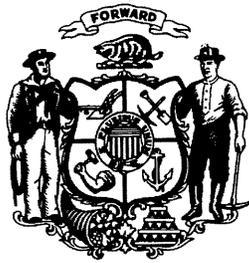
Page 2

Last session, 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 Assembly Bill 322.

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 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.

READ "AAA" REPORT



Al off?

January 7, 1999

TO: ALL LEGISLATORS
FROM: SENATOR JIM BAUMGART
RE: COSPONSORING LRB 1039 – Requiring headlights and other lamps to be lighted while windshield wipers are being used.

I will be introducing legislation relating to requiring the use of headlights and other lamps while windshield wipers are in use. If you would like to sign on to LRB-1039 please contact Pat in my office through e-mail or call 6-2056 by January 15, 1999.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, no person may operate a vehicle upon a highway during hours of darkness unless any required headlamps, tail lamps and clearance lamps of the vehicle are lighted. A person who violates this requirement may be required to pay a forfeiture of not less than \$10 nor more than \$20 for a first offense and not less than \$25 nor more than \$50 for a second or subsequent conviction within a year.

This bill provides that these lamps must also be lighted whenever the windshield wipers of the vehicle are being used, except temporary use to clean the windshield. A person who violates this provision is subject to the same minimum and maximum forfeiture amounts that may be imposed for failure to use these lamps during hours of darkness. The bill also prohibits a law enforcement officer from stopping or inspecting a vehicle solely to determine compliance with the above requirement and specifies that convictions for not having any required headlamps, tail lamps and clearance lamps of a vehicle lighted may not be recorded on the motorist's driving record.

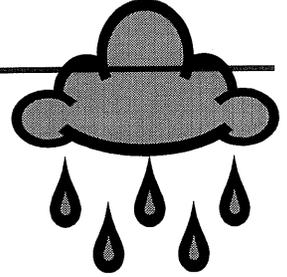
The bill also requires certain vehicles to be equipped with rear reflectors whenever the windshield wipers of a vehicle are being used.

For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate that will be printed as an appendix to this bill

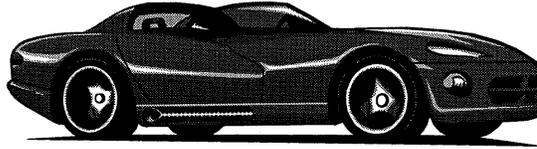


State Representative
James R. Baumgart

26th Assembly District:
City of Sheboygan-
Wards 1-3,5,6,9,11-16
City of Sheboygan Falls
Village of Kohler
Town of Sheboygan
Town of Sheboygan Falls
Ward 4



January 22, 1998



M E M O

TO: COAUTHORS & COSPONSORS OF ASSEMBLY BILL
322, relating to requiring headlights and other required
lamps on vehicles to be lighted while windshield wipers
are being used

Rep. John Ainsworth
Rep. John Dobyms
Rep. Carol Kelso
Rep. Alvin Ott
Sen. Brian Rude
Sen. Alan Lasee

Rep. Peter Bock
Rep. Robert Dueholm
Rep. Frank Lasee
Rep. Martin Reynolds
Sen. Roger Breske

FROM: Representative Jim Baumgart, author of AB 322

The Assembly Committee on Highways and Transportation (chaired by
Rep. Brandemuehl) has scheduled a Public Hearing on Assembly Bill 322.
The hearing will be held on Thursday, January 29, 1998, at 9:00 AM, in
Room 225 Northwest, State Capitol.

Please mark the date on your schedule. I would appreciate it if you could
testify or register for the bill at the hearing.

Thank you for your support!

January 22, 1998

Mr. Robert L. Rohde
Attorney at Law
607 North 8th Street
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Dear Attorney Rohde:

Enclosed is a copy of Assembly Bill 322, relating to requiring headlights and other required lamps on vehicles to be lighted while windshield wipers are being used.

I introduced the bill on April 28, 1997, and it was referred to the Assembly Highways and Transportation Committee. The chair of that committee, Representative David Brandemuehl, finally agreed to hold a public hearing on the bill on Thursday, January 29, 1998, at 9:00 AM in Room 225 NW, of the State Capitol. I enclose a copy of the hearing notice.

I would appreciate it if you could come to Madison on the 29th and testify in support of this bill. Written testimony may be submitted but it is never as effective as people being present to support a bill.

If you have any questions, please let me know. My FAX No. is Area Code 608-282-3626.

Sincerely,

Jim Baumgart
State Representative
26th Assembly District

JB:ae
Enclosures

January 22, 1998

Mr. Steve Vincent
301 North Third - Apt. 205
Madison, WI 53704

Dear Mr. Vincent:

Enclosed is a copy of the Public Hearing Notice, Assembly Committee on Highways and Transportation, for Assembly Bill 322, relating to requiring headlights and other required lamps on vehicles to be lighted while windshield wipers are being used.

Anne, my staff person, advised me that she called you today to let you know that the hearing will be held on Thursday, January 29, 1998, at 9:00 AM, in Room 225 NW of the State Capitol.

Look forward to seeing you at the hearing. If you know anyone else who will support this legislation, please advise them of the hearing.

Sincerely,

Jim Baumgart
State Representative
26th Assembly District

JB:ae
Enclosure

January 22, 1998

Mr. Richard Cvetan
1910 North 26th Street
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Dear Mr. Cvetan:

On April 28, 1997, I introduced Assembly Bill 322, relating to requiring headlights and other required lamps on vehicles to be lighted while windshield wipers are being used.

The bill was immediately referred to the Assembly Highways and Transportation Committee. The chair of that committee, Representative David Brandemuehl, finally agreed to hold a public hearing on the bill on Thursday, January 29, 1998, at 9:00 AM in Room 225 NW, of the State Capitol. I enclose a copy of the hearing notice.

In prior sessions, you indicated your support for such legislation. It is very important that people who support this legislation appear at the public hearing to testify or register. If you could attend the hearing, it would be most appreciated. Written testimony may be submitted, but it is never as effective as people being present.

If you have any questions, please advise. My FAX No. is Area Code 608-282-3626.

Sincerely,

Jim Baumgart
State Representative
26th Assembly District

JB:ae
Enclosure

January 22, 1998

Mr. Arthur Schaefer
2514 Wedemeyer St.
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Dear Mr. Schaefer:

On April 28, 1997, I introduced Assembly Bill 322, relating to requiring headlights and other required lamps on vehicles to be lighted while windshield wipers are being used.

The bill was immediately referred to the Assembly Highways and Transportation Committee. The chair of that committee, Representative David Brandemuehl, finally agreed to hold a public hearing on the bill on Thursday, January 29, 1998, at 9:00 AM in Room 225 NW, of the State Capitol. I enclose a copy of the hearing notice.

In prior sessions, you indicated your support for such legislation. It is very important that people who support this legislation appear at the public hearing to testify or register. If you could attend the hearing, it would be most appreciated. Written testimony may be submitted, but it is never as effective as people being present.

If you have any questions, please advise. My FAX No. is Area Code 608-282-3626.

Sincerely,

Jim Baumgart
State Representative
26th Assembly District

JB:ae
Enclosure

January 22, 1998

Louise Salter
915 Broadway
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

Dear Louise:

On April 28, 1997, I introduced Assembly Bill 322, relating to requiring headlights and other required lamps on vehicles to be lighted while windshield wipers are being used.

The bill was immediately referred to the Assembly Highways and Transportation Committee. The chair of that committee, Representative David Brandemuehl, finally agreed to hold a public hearing on the bill on Thursday, January 29, 1998, at 9:00 AM in Room 225 NW, of the State Capitol. I enclose a copy of the hearing notice.

In prior sessions, you indicated your support for such legislation. It is very important that people who support this legislation appear at the public hearing to testify or register. If you could attend the hearing, it would be most appreciated. Written testimony may be submitted, but it is never as effective as people being present.

If you have any questions, please advise. My FAX No. is Area Code 608-282-3626.

Sincerely,

Jim Baumgart
State Representative
26th Assembly District

JB:ae
Enclosure

January 22, 1998

Wilmer and Jane Tews
W6448 Lake Ellen Drive
Cascade, WI 53011-1366

Dear Mr. And Mrs. Tews:

On April 28, 1997, I introduced Assembly Bill 322, relating to requiring headlights and other required lamps on vehicles to be lighted while windshield wipers are being used.

The bill was immediately referred to the Assembly Highways and Transportation Committee. The chair of that committee, Representative David Brandemuehl, finally agreed to hold a public hearing on the bill on Thursday, January 29, 1998, at 9:00 AM in Room 225 NW, of the State Capitol. I enclose a copy of the hearing notice.

In prior sessions, you indicated your support for such legislation. It is very important that people who support this legislation appear at the public hearing to testify or register. If you could attend the hearing, it would be most appreciated. Written testimony may be submitted, but it is never as effective as people being present.

If you have any questions, please advise. My FAX No. is Area Code 608-282-3626.

Sincerely,

Jim Baumgart
State Representative
26th Assembly District

JB:ae
Enclosure



Post-it® Fax Note 7671		Date	# of pages 2
To	Rep. James Baumgart	From	F. Hamilton
Co./Dept.	Wis. Assembly	Co.	AAA Wisconsin
Phone #		Phone #	608-828-2486
Fax #	282-3626	Fax #	

January 29, 1998

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

TO: Chairman David Brandmuehl
and Members of the Assembly Committee
on Highways and Transportation

FROM: Ernie Stetenfeld
AAA Wisconsin Vice President
Public and Government Relations
608/828-2487

*Rep. Baumgart,
Thanks for your
work on this issue.
Ernie*

RE: AAA Wisconsin support for Assembly Bill 322 ("wipers-on/lights-on")

I regret that I am unable to testify before the committee in person today to express AAA's strong support for A.B. 322, 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 520,000 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 advocated that state governments should require 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" policy avoids, however, the need to define precipitation or the amount of it that would necessitate headlight use. This is a highly 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.

Just last week AAA Wisconsin received the as-yet-unpublished results of a mail survey completed late last year by a randomly selected sample of 653 of our members. Of those polled, 645 members answered this "Wisconsin issues" question: "Do 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 75 percent of respondents indicated they favor such a "wipers-on/lights-on" law. Only 25 percent were opposed. Please note that this support was indicated even without mention of the secondary-enforcement-only aspect of A.B. 322 and the fact that the bill specifies that convictions for not having the required lamps lighted would not be noted on the motorist's driving record.

(--MORE--)

January 22, 1998

Ms. Polly Hoffmann
W7210 Lynn Lane
Merrill, WI 54452

Dear Ms. Hoffmann:

In October of 1997, I advised you that I had introduced Assembly Bill 322, relating to requiring headlights and other required lamps on vehicles to be lighted while windshield wipers are being used.

At that time, I send you information for your studies about past legislation dealing with this subject. I hope this information was helpful to you.

Please be advised that the Assembly Committee on Highways and Transportation has scheduled a Public Hearing on Assembly Bill 322. The hearing will be on Thursday, January 29, 1998, at 9:00 AM, in Room 225 NW of the State Capitol.

At the time you were sent the information for school, I don't believe you indicated if you supported such legislation. . However, I want to notify you of what is happening on AB 322. It would be helpful if supporters of the bill appear at the public hearing to testify for or register their support. Also, written testimony may be sent to my office and I will give it to the committee members at the hearing. My FAX No is 608-282-3626.

Sincerely,

Jim Baumgart
State Representative
26th Assembly District

JB:ae
Enclosure

CONSTITUENT CONTACT

CONTACT ID: 1846

IDNO: 1416

FN: Wilmer

MN:

LN: Tews

BLDG #: W6448

STREET NAME: Lake Ellen Drive

BUSINESS:

BOX #:

CITY: Cascade

ST: WI

ZIP: 53011-1366

PHONE: (414) - () (414) - ()

SPOUSE FN: D. Jane

CONTACT DATE: 2-11-97

TYPE: Letter

YEAR: B

REQUEST: Wrote with concerns re the deer in Cedar Lake, Manitowoc Co. Wrote of other matters that concern headlights, fog lights, parking/marker lights on moving vehicles.

CONTACT SUBJECT: Deer; Cedar Lake; Motor Vehicles; Headlights; AB 322;

RESPONSE DATE: 2-19-97

ACTION TAKEN: Wrote appreciated concerns about deer on Cedar Lake. Advised Jim was introducing legislation requiring that you drive with your headlights on when using your windshield wipers.

CONTACTS:

STATUS: Completed

CLOSING INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: See Constit ID No. 1503 (Phiip Knauf) for copies of letters sent out & return letters re deer on Cedar Lake. Letter re driving with headlights on when using windshield wipers in AB 322.

AB 322

February 19, 1997

Wilmer & D. Jane Tews
W6448 Lake Ellen Drive
Cascade, WI 53011-1366

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Tews:

Thank you very much for the your letter about the Cedar Lake deer. I appreciated your concerns.

I am introducing legislation requiring that you drive with your headlights on when using your windshield wipers. While this does not solve all your safety issues, it will be a help. I will keep your letter on file as a reminder of the concerns you have written me about.

Sincerely,

Jim Baumgart
State Representative
26th Assembly District

JB:wrc

CONSTITUENT CONTACT

CONTACT ID: 1442 IDNO: 167

FN: Arthur MN: LN: Schaefer

BLDG #: 2514 STREET NAME: Wedemeyer Street

BUSINESS: BOX #:

CITY: Sheboygan ST: WI ZIP: 53081

PHONE: (414) - () (414) - ()

SPOUSE FN:

CONTACT DATE: 3-21-95 TYPE: Letter YEAR: A

REQUEST: Support for AB 163

CONTACT SUBJECT: headlights;

RESPONSE DATE: 4-15-96

ACTION TAKEN: After responding to an initial letter in support of AB 163,
we responded with a letter saying the bill was dead.

CONTACTS:

STATUS: Completed.

CLOSING INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:

* Tim Fast
Ref. Bureau. *

- The court may not know if there is a
2nd conviction b/c it doesn't show up on
driver's record.

-> local courts may know. but not all

-> Amended for only 1 penalty 10 to
or up to \$50.

-> Allow to go on record + then purge
the record after 1 year. (DOT will not
oppose this due to increased work).

-> Do nothing + allow the court assess
penalties they have - which means all
fines will be 1st time offense.

* What do we want do?



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
6th 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

Draft

November 17, 1999

Representative John Ainsworth
State Capitol, 302 North
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Representative Ainsworth:

Thank you for informing me of your request to Representative Stone concerning scheduling Senate Bill 4, relating to requiring the use of a vehicles headlights while operating the windshield wipers, for a public hearing. As you know, Representative Stone plans to schedule the bill for a public hearing during the winter recess. Once that hearing is scheduled it may be advantageous for us to combine our efforts and testify together.

I look forward to working with you while getting this important traffic safety issue to the Governor's desk.

Sincerely,



JIM BAUMGART
State Senator
9th Senate District

JB/ph

Draft

November 17, 1999

Representative Gregory Huber
State Capitol, 218 North
Madison, WI 53702

*sent to the
Assembly sponsors.*

OK

Dear Representative Huber:

Thank you for co-sponsoring Senate Bill 4, relating to requiring the use of a vehicles headlights while the windshield wipers are in use. As you may know, the bill was passed by the Senate and has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Highway Safety.

Representative Ainsworth and I have been in contact with Representative Jeff Stone about scheduling the bill for a hearing. Representative Stone plans to conduct a public hearing on the bill during the winter recess. Any assistance you are able to provide to assist in the favorable review of the bill in the Assembly would be greatly appreciated. This is an important traffic safety bill and I look forward to its passage.

Sincerely,

JIM BAUMGART
State Senator
9th Senate District

JB/ph

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.

M E M O

October 28, 1999

TO: Senator Baumgart

FROM: Pat Henderson/Timothy Fast (LRB)

RE: Issues of Possible Concern for SB 4 – Headlight Bill

.....

① The bill calls for a higher fine if cited for subsequent violations within a year of the first violation. However, the first violation does not get recorded on the individuals driving record, which means that the courts will have no record of previous violations and therefore all violations will be treated as first time offenses.

➤ The thought here is that as long as no one makes an issue of this we may just want to let the bill be considered by the Assembly as is. The Legislative Reference Bureau is ready to draft an amendment if it is needed.

2. The bill makes no mention of rear windshield wipers. Does this mean that if someone is using their rear windshield wiper only, do they also have to have their headlights on?

➤ This may not be a very serious problem because the bill does allow for an exception while simply cleaning off one's windshield. If an individual were cleaning off their rear window with the use of the wiper they would fall under this exception. However, if the rear wiper is in constant use the front wipers will more than likely also be in use and headlights will be required.

Put on Driving record & this page after 1 year.
↓
Fiscal Est. before introduction to
Send out How much.

** ~~347~~ 347.09 - ~~stand~~ required → 2 headlights wts.
→ Automatic @ lights or ok.*

A.A.1

Bill would require lights on in rain

SS 5
10/27/99

Drivers on Wisconsin highways would have to turn on their headlights when it's raining under a bill the state Senate endorsed Tuesday.

The measure would penalize drivers who do not turn on their headlights while their windshield wipers are operating. The bill includes an exception for drivers who turn on their wipers temporarily to clean their windshields.

Penalties for violating the law would be the same as for drivers who fail to turn their headlights on at night. First offenders would be required to pay fines between \$10 and \$20 for a first offense and between \$25 and \$50 for a second or subsequent conviction within a year.

Such violations would not be recorded on driving records.

The bill passed 20-13 and now goes to the state Assembly for consideration.

Draft

November 17, 1999

Honorable Fred Risser
State Capitol, 220 South
Madison, WI 53702

*Sent to
Sen. Burke*

Dear Senator Risser:

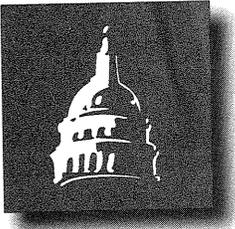
Thank you for your support on the Senate floor for Senate Bill 4, relating to requiring the use of a vehicles headlights while the windshield wipers are in use. Your support helped to insure an Ayes 20, Noes 13 vote.

The bill has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Highway Safety and I have been in contact with Representative Jeff Stone about scheduling the bill for a hearing. Representative Stone plans to conduct a public hearing on the bill during the winter recess. Any assistance you are willing to provide to assist in the favorable review of the bill in the Assembly would be greatly appreciated. This is an important traffic safety bill and I look forward to its passage.

Sincerely,

JIM BAUMGART
State Senator
9th Senate District

JB/ph



NOV 10 1999

JEFF STONE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
82ND DISTRICT

November 9, 1999

Senator James Baumgart
Room 306 South
State Capitol
VIA INTER-D MAIL

Dear Senator Baumgart,

Thank you for your letter regarding Senate Bill 4, which has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Highway Safety.

I plan to hold a public hearing of the committee during the winter recess, and will certainly consider Senate Bill 4 on the agenda when the committee next meets.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to working with you on this matter.

**Call Bill Graf
in Travis's office
when it gets a hearing*

JS/mp

Sincerely,

Jeff Stone
State Representative
82nd Assembly District

CAPITOL OFFICE:
POST OFFICE BOX 8953
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53708-8953
(608) 266-8590
TOLL-FREE: (888) 534-0082
FAX: (608) 282-3682
REP.STONE@LEGIS.STATE.WI.US

HOME:
7424 W. FOREST HOME AVENUE
GREENFIELD, WISCONSIN 53220
(414) 321-7299

Write to the ~~members~~

co-sponsors & let them

know the bill will have

a hearing & we will let

them know ASAP.



Sen. Baumgart - F.Y.I. - Here's the testimony I plan to provide on S.B. 4 tomorrow. Thanks for your letter, and thanks for your time on AB-52 last week.

June 2, 1999

2-page fax to 282-3626 Ernie

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

TO:

Sen. Roger Breske, Chairman,
and Members of the Senate Committee
on Insurance, Tourism, Transportation and Corrections

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 Breske 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 540,000 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.

Early this year, AAA Wisconsin conducted an opinion survey 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

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 340,000 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.