Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY. Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South P.O.Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882	Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:	Registering in Favor: but <u>not</u> speaking: Registering Against: but <u>not</u> speaking:	Speaking in Favor:  Speaking Against:	(City and Zip Code)  3 rd Som. Dist	Sen. Brian Burke (NAME) 7 Rep. Kaufert (Street Address or Route Number)	DATE: 2-21-01  BILL NO. SD 10  or  SUBJECT	SENATE HEARING SLIP  (Please Print Plainly)
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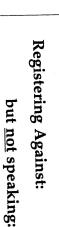
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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF MEMORANDUM

TO:

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE, TOURISM, AND

TRANSPORTATION

FROM:

Joyce L. Kiel, Senior Staff Attorney

RE:

2001 Senate Bill 10, Relating to Motorists Approaching Certain Authorized Emergency

Vehicles or Tow Trucks Stopped Near a Highway, and Senate Amendment (LRBa0258/2)

to Senate Bill 10

DATE:

February 20, 2001

2001 Senate Bill 10, relating to motorists approaching certain authorized emergency vehicles or tow trucks stopped near a highway, was introduced by Senator Burke, cosponsored by Representative Kaufert. It was referred to the Senate Committee on Insurance, Tourism, and Transportation which has scheduled a public hearing and possible executive session on the bill on February 21, 2001. This memorandum describes the bill and Senate Amendment (LRBa0258/2) to the bill.

### **2001 SENATE BILL 10**

Senate Bill 10 creates requirements for a motorist who is approaching a parked or stopped authorized emergency vehicle (such as a police, fire, ambulance, or conservation warden vehicle) or tow truck. These requirements apply if: (1) the emergency vehicle or tow truck is parked or stopped on or within 12 feet of a roadway; and (2) the emergency vehicle is using emergency flashing lights or the tow truck is flashing red lights. The motorist must proceed with due regard for other traffic and must do one of the following:

- If the roadway has at least two lanes for traffic proceeding in the same direction as the motorist *and* if the motorist may change lanes safely and without interfering with traffic, the motorist must move into a lane that is not nearest the emergency vehicle or tow truck and must travel in that lane until passing the emergency vehicle or tow truck.
- If the roadway has only one lane for traffic proceeding in the same direction as the motorist
  or if there are at least two such lanes but the motorist cannot change lanes safely or without
  interfering with other traffic, the motorist must slow until passing the emergency vehicle or
  tow truck.

Violation of this requirement may result in a forfeiture of not less than \$30 nor more than \$300. The bill also requires a court to suspend the violator's operating privilege for specified periods of time. The periods of suspension depend on whether the violation resulted in damage to another's property, bodily injury to another, or the death of another.

### SENATE AMENDMENT --- (LRBa0258/2)

Senate Amendment \_\_ (LRBa0258/2) applies these requirements not only with respect to a parked or stopped authorized emergency vehicle or tow truck as discussed above, but also to any similarly parked or stopped *road machinery or motor vehicle used in highway construction or maintenance* that is lighted as provided in s. 347.23, Stats., that is, with a red warning light or amber floodlamps.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 266-3137.

JLK:wu:rv:tlu;ksm

### Piliouras, Elizabeth

From:

Brumund, Loralee

Sent:

Tuesday, February 20, 2001 4:24 PM

To:

Piliouras, Elizabeth

Cc:

Maassen, Joe; Cook, Robert; Frazier, Carson; Huxtable, Sandra; Young, Robert

Subject: 2001 SB 10

As per our telephone conversation earlier today, I have some technical concerns regarding the wording of the Senate Amendment to SB 10 that is scheduled for a hearing tomorrow, Feb. 21, at the Senate Insurance, Tourism and Transportation Committee. I do not offer a position on the amendment, just some questions I discovered during my review.

The DOT/DSP will be offering testimony in support of the original SB 10, but will also be offering some technical concerns on the anticipated amendment:

1) The term "highway maintenance equipment" is not defined in statute, but "road machinery" is defined in ss.340.01(52). You may want to review the equipment and machinery included in the definition of "road machinery" and see if it better describes the intent of the amendment.

2) Reference to the lighting requirements in ss.347.23 indicate that the "road machinery or motor vehicle used in highway construction or maintenance" is lighted only "during hours of darkness". I anticipate this is not the intent of the amendment, and it would be inconsistent with the lighting requirements of the authorized emergency vehicles and the tow trucks found elsewhere in the original bill.

3) Perhaps a better reference to required lighting for road machinery can be found in ss.347.26(7). However, be aware that a strict interpretation of that reference is that the lighting requirement is only for those vehicles owned by "the department or county or municipal highway department", and would not necessarily include those privately owned vehicles subcontracted by the governmental agency.

4) Ss.340.01(22e) already defines a "highway maintenance or construction area" including the specific signs that must be placed to identify that area to motorists. This definition is used to clarify the zones in which fines are

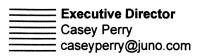
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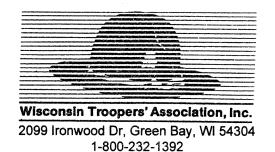
for speeders, and for zones in which workers are present and speeds are reduced by authorized signs. The amendment may want to exempt these work zones from the motorist requirement to either slow down or move into another lane if road machinery in included in the original proposal. These would be conflicting and redundant requirements for the motorist.

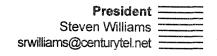
5) Be aware that there are also "utility work areas" as defined in ss.340.01(73m) and lighting requirments for utility vehicles as found in ss.347.26(9) & (11).

Amendment of 2.21.01

Amendment of olan Please contact me if you have questions or comments.







TO: Chairman Roger Breske and Committee Members

Senate Committee on Insurance, Tourism & Transportation

FR: Casey Perry, Executive Director

DA: February 21, 2001

RE: Senate Bill 10 - motorists moving to left lane OR reducing speed when

approaching emergency vehicles stopped near a highway

On behalf of the Wisconsin State Troopers' Association, I urge you to support an important legislative proposal that will help protect the safety of Wisconsin's law enforcement officers and other emergency personnel. Senate Bill 10, authored by Senator Brian Burke and Representative Dean Kaufert, requires motorists to move to the unoccupied lane or slow down when approaching an emergency vehicle or tow truck with flashing lights along a highway. The forfeiture for such a violation would be not less than \$30, nor more than \$300. However, a court would be required to suspend an individual's operating privileges if the violation results in property damage, injury, or death.

Last session, this piece of legislation was unanimously recommended by the Senate Committee on Insurance, Tourism, Transportation & Corrections and the Assembly Committee on Highway Safety. It passed the Senate on a voice vote. It's companion bill in the Assembly also passed on a voice vote. Unfortunately, neither house took up the other's bill, and it died. Please help us unsure that does not happen again.

Wisconsin's law enforcement officers and emergency personnel serve to protect our citizens and promote public safety. Accordingly, our jobs require us to accept greater risk and danger. Specifically relating to this legislation, in the past 10 years, two of our state patrol officers were struck and killed by a vehicle while parked along side a roadway. According to the State Patrol's records, from 1994-1998, 60 officers were struck while parked along side a roadway while on duty. These incidents are nothing short of senseless tragedies. This legislation offers us an opportunity to do better.

I would like to share with you a personal experience that relates directly to the importance of this legislation. On September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1995, I was directing traffic on I 43 after a Packer game. I was struck by a vehicle attempting to pass other cars by moving into the lane where I was directing traffic (despite my squad car's presence and flashing lights). My arm and shoulder were seriously injured. At the time, I was unsure whether or not the disability would end my career. To this day I feel very fortunate, because the damage could have been far worse.

In addition to the personal impact, a significant cost accompanies such accidents. My medical bills alone totaled \$10,670, lost wages totaled \$5124, and permanent partial disability totaled \$4100.

Senate Bill 10 would help to prevent the careless, reckless behavior that results in such tragedies. Both Indiana and Ohio have passed similar legislation. It is my hope that Wisconsin will also embrace a leadership role on this very important roadside safety issue. Please support Senate Bill 10. Thank you for your time and attention.





## WISCONSIN TOWING ASSOCIATION

Division of Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association

562 Grand Canyon Drive - P.O. Box 44849 - Madison, WI 53744-4849 Phone: 608 / 833-8200 Fax: 608 / 833-2875

February 21, 2001

To:

Members

Senate Committee on Insurance, Tourism, Transportation & Corrections

Subject:

Senate Bill 10 - related to motorists approaching certain authorized emergency vehicles and

tow trucks stopped near a highway and providing penalty

On behalf of the members of the Wisconsin Towing Association, a Division of the Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association, I wish to offer the following comments on Senate Bill 10.

We commend the author of this bill for recognizing the problem that exists in insuring the safety of operators of emergency vehicles and tow trucks while they perform their duties and jobs on behalf of the motoring public.

Our member tow truck operators and their driver employees regularly experience "close calls" and unfortunately in some instances have been struck by motorists passing too close to them while they are providing service to wrecked or disabled vehicles on the shoulder of the road. One would think common sense and simple courtesy would prevail when motorists see an emergency vehicle or tow truck with its warning lamps operating assisting another vehicle on the roadside. Unfortunately, this is often not the case. They do not slow down, and they do not move to the lane furthest from the activity on the shoulder of the road. This situation puts our members in serious jeopardy, as they must often work with their backs to approaching traffic.

We feel the passage of SB-10 would be a good start to the resolving this serious safety issue for the members of our industry. Enactment along with a concerted educational effort of the motoring public as to the provisions of this legislation will prevent needless injuries and possibly save lives.

Given the safety considerations at hand, we don't think it is burdensome to require motorists to slow down and move over, if they are able to do so, when they see an emergency vehicle or tow truck working on the side of the road:

Thank you for considering my comments on Senate Bill 10, and I would be pleased to answer any questions that members of the committee may have.

Sincerely,

Marc S. Bentley
Director of Governmental Relations



## Senate Committee On Insurance, Tourism, and Transportation

February 21, 2001

10:00 am, 201-South East

## Talking Points SB 10 by Rep. Dean Kaufert

### Major Points of SB 10 include:

- Provide penalty against those who cause an accident due to careless driving.
- Heighten public awareness of dangers on road and their responsibility to prevent accidents by driving defensively.
- Legislation brought forward by the Wisconsin Troopers Association.
- Bill requires any motorist approaching an emergency vehicle with its emergency lights on to move into a lane (traffic permitting) farthest from the emergency vehicle(s).
- Minimum fine of \$30.00 Maximum of \$300.00

- Currently, there is no recourse of action for those who do not change lanes when approaching an emergency vehicle or tow truck and in turn cause an accident.
- Similar legislation has been introduced at the national level by Ohio Congressman
   Tony Hall (D- Ohio's Third Congressional District).
- It is my hope that the committee will move this legislation forward, because of past accidents that show the need for this kind of legislation. There is a real and urgent safety need for those who protect and assist WI citizens every day on Wisconsin's highways.
- Senator Burke and myself proposed this same legislation last year and there has been no opposition.
- Thank you for your attention to this simple, but important legislation.

## Vote Record

# Senate - Committee on Insurance, Tourism, and Transportation

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Committee Member Sen. Roger Breske, Chair Sen. Richard Grobschmidt Sen. Jim Baumgart Sen. Alan Lasee Sen. Margaret Farrow		Aye No	Absent Not Voting		
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Motion Failed

## Vote Record

# Senate - Committee on Insurance, Tourism, and Transportation

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