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MEMORANDUM

July 18, 2002

TO: Senate Committee on Insurance, Tourism and Transportation
FR: Senator Roger Breske, Chair
RE: Proposed Clearinghouse Rule 02-079; *relating to allowing the operation of double bottoms and certain other vehicles on certain specified highways.*

Clearinghouse Rule 02-079 was recently referred to the Senate Committee on Insurance, Tourism and Transportation. For your reference, I have attached the analysis by the Department of Transportation. If you would like to request a hearing on this proposed rule, please contact Beth in my office before *Friday, August 9th, 2002.*

PART 1

Analysis Prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: ss. 85.16(1) and 348.07(4), Stats.

STATUTE INTERPRETED: s. 348.07(4), Stats.

General Summary of Proposed Rule. This proposed rule amends Trans 276.07(5) to (7), (21) and (24), Wisconsin Administrative Code, to add six segments of highway to the designated highway system established under s. 348.07(4), Stats., and to remove one segment of highway. The actual highway segments¹ that this proposed rule adds to the designated highway system are:

<u>Hwy.</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
STH 121	USH 53 in Pigeon Falls	STH 95
STH 164	I-43	STH 36
STH 20	STH 36	I-94
STH 28	STH 57	STH 32
STH 28	STH 32 in Sheboygan Falls	I-43 in Sheboygan
STH 28	USH 45 in Kewaskum	STH 144 S. of Boltonville

The segment proposed to be removed from the designated long truck route network is:

<u>Hwy.</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
STH 32	STH 28	STH 23

The long trucks to which this proposed rule applies are those with 53-foot semitrailers, double bottoms and the vehicles which may legally operate on the federal National Network, but which exceed Wisconsin's regular limits on overall length. Generally, no person may operate any of the following vehicles on Wisconsin's highways without a permit: A single vehicle with an overall length in excess of 40 feet², a combination of vehicles with an overall length in excess of 65 feet, a semitrailer longer than 48 feet, an automobile haulaway longer than 66 feet plus allowed overhangs, or a double bottom. Certain exceptions are provided under s. 348.07(2), Stats., which implements provisions of the federal Surface Transportation Assistance Act in Wisconsin.

¹ The proposed rule text often achieves these objectives by consolidating individual segments into contiguous segments with new end points. In order to determine the actual highway segment added, it is necessary to compare the combined old designations with the combined new designation.

² 45-foot buses are allowed on the National Network and Interstate system by Federal law. Section 4006(b) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991.

The effect of this proposed rule will be to extend the provisions of s. 348.07(2)(f), (fm), (gm) and (gr), and s. 348.08(1)(e), Stats., to the highway segments listed above. As a result, vehicles which may legally operate on the federal National Network in Wisconsin will also be allowed to operate on the newly-designated highways. Specifically, this means there will be no overall length limitation for a tractor-semitrailer combination, a double bottom or an automobile haulaway on the affected highway segments. There also will be no length limitation for a truck tractor or road tractor when operated in a tractor-semitrailer combination or as part of a double bottom or an automobile haulaway. Double bottoms will be allowed to operate on the affected highway segments provided neither trailer is longer than 28 feet, 6 inches. Semitrailers up to 53 feet long may also be operated on these highway segments provided the kingpin to rear axle distance does not exceed 43 feet. This distance is measured from the kingpin to the center of the rear axle or, if the semitrailer has a tandem axle, to a point midway between the first and last axles of the tandem. Otherwise, semitrailers, including semitrailers which are part of an automobile haulaway, are limited to 48 feet in length.

These vehicles and combinations are also allowed to operate on undesignated highways for a distance of 5 miles or less from the designated highway in order to reach fuel, food, maintenance, repair, rest, staging, terminal or vehicle assembly or points of loading or unloading.

Fiscal Impact. The Department estimates that there will be no fiscal impact on the liabilities or revenues of any county, city, village, town, school district, technical college district or sewerage district.

Copies of Rule and Contact Person. Copies of this proposed rule are available without cost upon request to the office of the State Traffic Engineer, P. O. Box 7986, Room 501, Madison, Wisconsin, 53707-7986, telephone (608) 266-1273. For questions about this rule making, please call Ashwani Sharma, Traffic Operations Engineer at (608) 266-1273. Alternate formats of the proposed rule will be provided to individuals at their request.

PART 2 **TEXT OF PROPOSED RULE**

Under the authority vested in the state of Wisconsin, department of transportation, by ss. 85.16(1) and 348.07(4), Stats., the department of transportation hereby proposes to amend ch. Trans 276, Wisconsin Administrative Code, interpreting s. 348.07(4), Stats., relating to allowing the operation of double bottoms and certain other vehicles on certain specified highways, as follows: