2003 ASSEMBLY BILL 491

September 8, 2003 –Introduced by Representatives J. LEHMAN, HINES, BERCEAU and TOWNSEND, cosponsored by Senator ROESSLER. Referred to Committee on Insurance.

AN ACT to create 632.33 of the statutes; relating to: insurance coverage for sponsors of minors applying for driver’s licenses.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the application of a minor for a driver’s license must be signed by his or her parent, stepparent, or other adult sponsor. If the minor causes damage while operating a motor vehicle, the parent, stepparent, or other adult sponsor is jointly and severally liable, along with the minor, for the damages caused by the minor’s negligence or willful misconduct.

This bill requires every insurer that offers motor vehicle liability insurance to offer sponsorship coverage for damages for which an adult sponsor is liable as a result of the negligence or willful misconduct of the minor that the adult is sponsoring. The sponsorship coverage must have liability limits of at least $50,000 per person and $100,000 per accident for bodily injury, and the limits may not be reduced by amounts paid or payable under other liability coverage or under another motor vehicle insurance policy.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 632.33 of the statutes is created to read:

632.33 Sponsorship coverage. Every insurer that offers motor vehicle liability insurance shall offer sponsorship coverage that insures against the liability
under s. 343.15 (2) (b) of a parent, stepparent, or other adult who sponsors a minor under s. 343.15 for damages resulting from the negligence or willful misconduct of the minor while operating a motor vehicle. The sponsorship coverage shall have separate bodily injury liability limits of at least $50,000 per person and $100,000 per accident. Notwithstanding ss. 631.43 (3) and 632.32 (5) (f) and (j), the limits of the sponsorship coverage may not be reduced by any amounts paid or payable under any other policy of motor vehicle liability insurance or under any other liability coverage under the same policy of motor vehicle liability insurance.

SECTION 2. Effective date.

(1) This act takes effect on the first day of the 7th month beginning after publication.

(END)