

**Vote Record**  
**Committee on Transportation and Information Infrastructure**

Date: 2/18

Moved by: Meyer

Seconded by: Breske

AB \_\_\_\_\_ SB 414 Clearinghouse Rule \_\_\_\_\_  
 AJR \_\_\_\_\_ SJR \_\_\_\_\_ Appointment \_\_\_\_\_  
 AR \_\_\_\_\_ SR \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

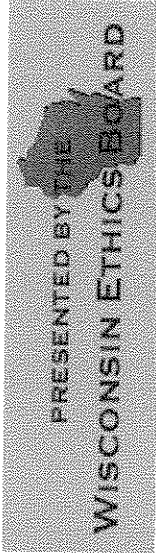
A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

- Be recommended for:
- Passage       Adoption       Confirmation       Concurrence       Indefinite Postponement
  - Introduction       Rejection       Tabling       Nonconcurrency

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
<b>Senator Joseph Leibham, Chair</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Senator Ted Kanavas</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Senator Neal Kedzie</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Senator Roger Breske</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Senator Mark Meyer</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Totals:</b>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>

Motion Carried       Motion Failed

- ▶ Home
- ▶ Lobbying in Wisconsin
- ▶ Organizations employing lobbyists
- ▶ Lobbyists



as of Tuesday, February 10, 2004

### 2003-2004 legislative session

## Legislative bills and resolutions

(search for another legislative bill or resolution at the bottom of this page)

- Text, Sponsors and Analysis
- Status and Fiscal Estimate
- Lobbying Effort on this item

### Senate Bill 414

exempting farm truck tractors being operated in intrastate transportation for certain agricultural purposes from vehicle registration. (FE)

**No organization has reported lobbying activity on Senate Bill 414 2003 Regular Session.**

Select a legislative proposal and click "go"

<b>House</b>	Assembly Senate
<b>Proposal Type</b>	Bill Joint Resolution Resolution
<b>Proposal Number</b>	414 (enter proposal number)
<b>Legislative Session</b>	2003 Regular Session
<input type="button" value="Go"/>	



# HESS, DEXTER, REINERTSON & BRUNNER S.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
605 SCOTT STREET, P.O. BOX 867, WAUSAU, WI 54402-0867  
PHONE: (715) 845-6227 FAX: (715) 842-2515

INTERNET: [www.hesslaw.com](http://www.hesslaw.com)  
E-MAIL: [tjb@hesslaw.com](mailto:tjb@hesslaw.com)

WILLIAM C. HESS  
CALVIN R. DEXTER  
ROBERT J. REINERTSON  
THOMAS J. BRUNNER

MARK D. MUNSON \*  
\*ALSO LICENSED IN ILLINOIS

RICHARD C. TREMBATH  
(1919-1979)

February 11, 2004

The Wisconsin Senate and Assembly Committees on Transportation

RE: Assembly Bill 710/ Senate Bill 414

Dear Transportation Committee Members:

I am writing in support of Assembly Bill 710/Senate Bill 414, and thank the Senate and Assembly Transportation Committees for taking time to consider my comments and reasons stated below. Regretfully, I am unable to meet with you today to discuss this in person.

Section 341.05(7) already exempts farm tractors from registration. However, certain law enforcement officials cannot believe a truck tractor can be a farm tractor even though it is used only to haul manure. AB 710/ SB 414 would eliminate confusion and inconsistent application of the law by simply and directly stating that farm truck tractors used in the manner stated are exempt. Everyone already recognizes truck tractors as tractors. AB 710/ SB 414 proposes to mandate that they be treated the same as other farm tractors.

The downside to AB 710/ SB 414 in the form we are discussing today, is that it creates a limited list that does not include all of the common activities that farmers could and would use these implements for. No itemized list will ever be complete, but I would urge the committee to include agricultural products such as hay and waste products such as rocks among the itemized list. I would also urge the committee to include operation not only from the point of purchase to the farm, but from the farm to a shop for repairs and back and even traveling to the field empty to pick up a load of hay, haylage, silage, grain, etc.

I would also question the fiscal estimate's assumption that the number of vehicles registered as farm truck tractors would decrease. I believe those that are registered as farm truck tractors are being used to haul product to market and would still be used for that purpose. AB 710/ SB 414 would however, allow farmers to purchase and use more economically efficient equipment to dedicate solely to the exempt purposes, saving both purchase and operation costs and registration fees. One question that may or may not have been asked or answered is what has been the trend in farm truck tractor registration. Has it been increasing or decreasing? I expect the trend coincides directly with the amount of agricultural product being transported to market and will continue to do so even with the passage of AB 710/ SB 414.

Wisconsin's Right to Farm Act, sec. 823.08 of the statutes, which limits nuisance remedies, states: "The legislature believes that, to the extent possible consistent with good public policy, the law should not hamper agricultural production or the use of modern agricultural technology." I dare say the same philosophy applies to, or should apply to, transportation issues.

Sincerely,  
**Thomas J. Brunner**



## Wisconsin Department of Transportation

---

DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
Bureau of Vehicle Services  
4802 Sheboygan Ave.  
P. O. Box 7909  
Madison, WI 53707-7909

Telephone (608) 266-2235  
Facsimile (FAX) (608) 267-6974  
E-mail: bur-veh-services.dmv@dot.state.wi.us

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFORMATION  
INFRASTRUCTURE

February 11, 2004

AB 710 and SB 414

Wisconsin Department of Transportation Comments  
Carson P. Frazier

- DOT opposes the bills because of the revenue loss to the Transportation Fund.
- Revenue loss is estimated at \$75,700 annually.
- We realize that farming is a business that's extremely sensitive to even small cost factors, and we can appreciate that any cost reduction will be helpful.
- We can appreciate the authors' desire to exempt these vehicles from registration. The vehicle is exclusively transporting products in a clearly farm setting.
- And, I would like to commend Rep. Petrowski, whose staff worked closely with us to write the exemption very narrowly, precisely to minimize the revenue loss.
- But, the authors may not have realized how many farm truck tractors are registered in Wisconsin.
- In fact, we were surprised when we discovered, from a computer run of our database, that there are actually 1,675 farm truck tractors in Wisconsin, and 77% of them are registered at 80,000 lbs., the highest weight category.
- So, even if only a few of these farm truck tractors were exempted by the bill, that is a revenue loss of some significance.
- I would also point out that farm truck tractors already receive a big fee reduction. They only pay  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the registration fee of regular truck tractors of the same weight. An 80,000 lb. farm truck tractor only pays \$510.50 a year in registration fee, compared to \$1987.50 for a regular truck tractor.

## Senate Bill 414 Testimony

Good morning. Chairman Ainsworth, Chairman Leibham. Members of the Committees.

I am speaking to you today to request your support for Senate Bill 414 and its companion, Assembly Bill 710.

**Current law** allows certain agricultural vehicles to be exempt from registration. However, the statutes do not clearly define which ag vehicles are exempt and which are not. Right now, certain ag vehicles are exempt while other similar ag vehicles are not, even though both types of vehicles are used for the same purpose on the farm or field.

This inconsistency in state statute has resulted in confusion and frustration for some Wisconsin farmers, as they would like a clear consistency in the law and also the ability to update their farm vehicles and use safer vehicles.

**This bill is simple.** It allows agricultural vehicles transporting only manure, grains, silage, haylage, or equipment to or from a farm or field to be exempt from vehicle registration. The same as straight trucks.

A number of states across the nation have legislation similar to this bill. Now it is time for Wisconsin to make the statutes clear so that both law enforcement and farmers know distinctly which vehicles need to be registered.

**This bill is narrow.** SB 414/AB 710 bill applies only to farmers. Not to custom haulers. To a specific group of farmers. By using the term "farm truck tractor," the bill does not open anything up for widespread use.

DOT will tell you that this bill will reduce DOT funding, and it will – by only \$75,000 a year. However, DOT's fiscal estimate is only a guess. They are estimating that 10% of Wisconsin's farm vehicles will be exempted from registration fees. I don't think it will be that high. Many farmers will continue to pay registration fees because they will want to take their vehicles to market, to the milk plant, to other farms. And this bill does not exempt those vehicles, nor does it exempt any vehicles transporting anything other than manure, grains, silage, haylage, or equipment.

This bill is to help out those farmers who are seeking to use safer equipment. Keeping our roads safe for everyone.

I think our farmers are worth it.

Thank you.