March 11, 2008 – Introduced by Representatives POPE-ROBERTS, BERCEAU and PARISI. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

AN ACT to amend 346.95 (1); and to create 346.94 (20) of the statutes; relating to: school bus idling.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau
This bill prohibits the operator of a school bus from allowing the engine of the school bus to idle for more than five consecutive minutes unless: 1) the school bus is forced to remain motionless because of traffic conditions or mechanical difficulties; 2) the outdoor temperature is below 20 degrees Fahrenheit; 3) such idling is necessary to maintain a safe temperature for a child with a disability; 4) the school bus is being repaired; or 5) the school bus is stopped to load or unload passengers. The operator of a school bus who violates this prohibition may be required to forfeit not less than $20 nor more than $40 for the first offense and not less than $50 nor more than $100 for the second or subsequent conviction within a year.

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

SECTION 1. 346.94 (20) of the statutes is created to read:

346.94 (20) SCHOOL BUS IDLING. The operator of a school bus may not allow the engine of the school bus to idle for more than 5 consecutive minutes except under the following circumstances:
(a) When the school bus is forced to remain motionless because of traffic conditions or mechanical difficulties over which the operator has no control.

(b) When the outdoor temperature is below 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

(c) When it is necessary to maintain a safe temperature for a child with a disability, as defined in s. 115.76 (5).

(d) When the school bus is being repaired.

(e) When the school bus is stopped to load or unload passengers.

SECTION 2. 346.95 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

346.95 (1) Any person violating s. 346.87, 346.88, 346.89 (2), 346.90 to 346.92 or 346.94 (1), (9), (10), (11), (12) or (15), or (20) may be required to forfeit not less than $20 nor more than $40 for the first offense and not less than $50 nor more than $100 for the 2nd or subsequent conviction within a year.