



2009 SENATE BILL 531

February 9, 2010 – Introduced by Senator JAUCH, cosponsored by Representative SHERMAN. Referred to Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 348.27 (9) (a) of the statutes; **relating to:** annual or
2 consecutive month permits for vehicles or combinations of vehicles
3 transporting loads near the Wisconsin–Michigan border.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, with limited exceptions, no person may operate upon a highway any vehicle or combination of vehicles that exceeds certain statutory limits on size, weight, or load unless that person possesses a permit issued by the Department of Transportation (DOT). DOT may issue an annual or consecutive month permit (Michigan border permit) for an oversize or overweight vehicle or combination of vehicles to: 1) transport loads within 11 miles of the Wisconsin–Michigan state line; or 2) transport certain forest products on USH 2 in Iron County or Ashland County or in Bayfield County from the Ashland County line through Hart Lake Road, if the vehicle or vehicle combination is traveling between this state and Michigan and does not violate Michigan law.

This bill allows a vehicle or vehicle combination operating under a Michigan border permit under the circumstances described in item 2), above, to operate solely within Wisconsin, eliminating the requirement that the vehicle or vehicle combination be traveling between Wisconsin and Michigan. However, if the vehicle or vehicle combination is traveling between Wisconsin and Michigan, it is still subject to the requirement that it not be in violation of Michigan law.

Because this bill concerns an exception to the vehicle weight limits specified in ch. 348, stats., the Department of Transportation, as required by law, will prepare a report to be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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

1 **SECTION 1.** 348.27 (9) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 348.27 (9) (a) The department may issue annual or consecutive month permits
3 for the transportation on a vehicle or combination of vehicles of loads exceeding
4 statutory length or weight limitations over any class of highway for a distance not
5 to exceed 11 miles from the Michigan–Wisconsin state line, except that a vehicle or
6 combination of vehicles transporting exclusively peeled or unpeeled forest products
7 cut crosswise, wood chips, or forestry biomass may operate under such a permit
8 anywhere upon USH 2 in Iron County or Ashland County or upon USH 2 in Bayfield
9 County from the Ashland County line through Hart Lake Road ~~if the~~. A permit under
10 this subsection is valid for a vehicle or combination of vehicles is traveling between
11 this state and Michigan and upon USH 2 in Iron County, Ashland County, or the
12 applicable part of Bayfield County, more than 11 miles from the Michigan–Wisconsin
13 state line, only if the vehicle or combination of vehicles does not violate length or
14 weight limitations established, as of April 28, 2004, under Michigan law. If the roads
15 desired to be used by the applicants involve streets or highways other than those
16 within the state trunk highway system, the application shall be accompanied by a
17 written statement of route approval by the officer in charge of maintenance of the
18 other highway.

19 **SECTION 2. Initial applicability.**

