



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

**2009 Wisconsin Act 175**  
[2009 Senate Bill 448]

**Utility Terrain Vehicle Pilot  
Program**

2009 Wisconsin Act 175 makes the following changes:

- Creates a utility terrain vehicle (UTV) pilot program that is in effect until July 1, 2012.
- Defines “utility terrain vehicle” to mean a motor driven device, other than a golf cart or low-speed vehicle, that is designed to be used primarily off of a highway and that has, and was originally manufactured with, all of the following:
  - A gross weight of more than 900 pounds, but not more than 1,999 pounds.
  - Four or more low-pressure tires.
  - A cargo box or dump box.
  - A steering wheel.
  - A tail light.
  - A brake light.
  - Two headlights.
  - A width of not more than 65 inches.
  - Seats for at least two occupants, all of which seating is designed not to be straddled.
  - A system of seat belts, or a similar system, for restraining each occupant of the device in the event of an accident.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

- A system of structural members designed to reduce the likelihood that an occupant would be crushed as the result of a rollover of the device.
- Requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in consultation with the Department of Transportation, to administer the pilot program and to investigate the effects of using UTVs on all-terrain vehicle (ATV) routes and trails in consultation with other effected entities. DNR is also generally required to report the results of its evaluation to the Legislature.
- Allows the DNR, federal agencies, and any county to elect to participate in the pilot program. If a county elects to participate, municipalities within the county may elect to opt out of the program.
- Allows participants, within their respective jurisdictions, to designate ATV routes and trails that may be used by UTVs or that are prohibited for UTV use.
- Authorizes regulation for many purposes in the same manner as ATVs are regulated, and in particular, authorizes DNR to register UTVs.
- Requires operators of UTVs on ATV routes or trails to be at least 16 years old and applies ATV safety certificate requirements to operators.

***Effective date:*** March 30, 2010 generally, except for the provision of this Act which repeals an appropriation that is only in effect until the sunset date of this pilot program (July 1, 2012).

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April 6, 2010

LAK:ksm