



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

**2009 Wisconsin Act 254**  
[2009 Senate Bill 374]

**Law Enforcement Officers  
Operating Commercial Motor  
Vehicles: Driver License Exception**

### **CURRENT LAW**

Under current law, with limited exceptions, no person may operate a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) unless the person holds a commercial driver license (CDL). Exceptions allow fire fighters, rescue squad members, and farmers who hold valid operators' licenses other than CDLs to operate CMVs under specified circumstances. Federal law generally requires operators of CMVs to hold CDLs, but provides for certain exceptions. State law provides that the exceptions under state law apply to the extent permitted under federal law.

### **2009 WISCONSIN ACT 254**

2009 Wisconsin Act 254 creates an exception to the CDL licensing requirement for law enforcement officers who operate CMVs that are authorized emergency vehicles that are necessary to the preservation of life or property or the execution of emergency governmental functions and that are equipped with warning lamps and a siren.

**Effective date:** 2009 Wisconsin Act 254 takes effect on May 22, 2010.

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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/>.