



2011 SENATE BILL 422

1 AN ACT *to repeal* 348.07 (2) (gr), 348.07 (2) (i), 348.26 (5) and 348.27 (13); and
2 *to amend* 194.32, 348.05 (2) (f), 348.07 (1), 348.07 (2) (fs), 348.07 (2) (g), 348.07
3 (2) (gv), 348.07 (2) (h), 348.07 (4), 348.07 (4m), 348.08 (1) (a), 348.25 (4) (intro.)
4 and 348.28 (1) of the statutes; **relating to:** the length of vehicles that may be
5 operated on a highway and granting rule-making authority.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

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

6 SECTION 1. 194.32 of the statutes, as affected by 2011 Wisconsin Act 54, is
7 amended to read:
8 **194.32 Buses, restrictions.** No common motor carrier of passengers shall
9 operate any passenger-carrying bus over any public highway of this state with any
10 trailer or semitrailer attached except for an articulated bus as defined in s. 340.01

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1 (2m). ~~Except for an articulated bus as defined in s. 340.01 (2m) which may be 65 feet~~
2 ~~in length, no~~ No interurban motor bus which exceeds 45 feet in length or 8 feet 6
3 ~~inches in width or~~ is of a double-decked open-roof design shall be operated upon the
4 public highways under the authority of this chapter. As used in this section an
5 interurban motor bus is deemed to be of a “double-decked open-roof design” when
6 passengers are carried therein on an upper level throughout the length of the bus
7 over passengers on a lower level throughout the length of the bus and the bus roof
8 does not extend throughout the length of the bus or is not permanently enclosed with
9 rigid construction.

10 **SECTION 2.** 348.05 (2) (f) of the statutes is amended to read:

11 348.05 (2) (f) Eight feet 8 inches for urban passenger buses and 8 feet 6 inches
12 for interurban passenger buses.

13 **SECTION 3.** 348.07 (1) of the statutes, as affected by 2011 Wisconsin Act 54, is
14 amended to read:

15 348.07 (1) No person, without a permit therefor, may operate on a highway any
16 single vehicle with an overall length in excess of 45 feet or any combination of 2
17 vehicles with an overall length in excess of ~~65~~ 70 feet, except as otherwise provided
18 in subs. (2) ~~and~~, (2a), ~~and~~ (4m) and s. 348.08 (1).

19 **SECTION 4.** 348.07 (2) (fs) of the statutes is amended to read:

20 348.07 (2) (fs) 75 feet for a tractor-semitrailer combination ~~that is operated on~~
21 ~~any part of the state trunk highway system,~~ except as provided in par. (f) or sub. (4m).

22 **SECTION 5.** 348.07 (2) (g) of the statutes is amended to read:

23 348.07 (2) (g) 48 feet for a semitrailer or trailer operated as part of a 2-vehicle
24 combination, except as provided in par. ~~(gr) or~~ (gv).

25 **SECTION 6.** 348.07 (2) (gr) of the statutes is repealed.

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1 **SECTION 7.** 348.07 (2) (gv) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 348.07 **(2)** (gv) 53 feet for a semitrailer whose length from kingpin to axle does
3 not exceed 43 feet and which is operated as part of a 2-vehicle combination ~~on any~~
4 ~~part of the state trunk highway system~~, except as provided in ~~par. (gr) or sub. (4m)~~.
5 The length limits in this paragraph do not apply to a trailer or a semitrailer that is
6 authorized to operate under par. (im).

7 **SECTION 8.** 348.07 (2) (h) of the statutes is amended to read:

8 348.07 **(2)** (h) 65 ~~Sixty-six~~ feet for articulated buses operated in urban areas.

9 **SECTION 9.** 348.07 (2) (i) of the statutes is repealed.

10 **SECTION 10.** 348.07 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

11 348.07 **(4)** The secretary shall, by rule, designate the highways to which sub.
12 (2) (f), (fm), and (gm), ~~and (gr)~~ and s. 348.08 (1) (e) apply. The designation of highways
13 under this subsection may not be inconsistent with the designation of highways
14 made by the U.S. secretary of transportation under P.L. 97-424, section 411. The
15 secretary may also designate additional highways by rule. In adopting a rule
16 designating other highways, which may include 2-lane highways, the secretary
17 shall specify the factors which resulted in the determination to designate the
18 highways. These factors shall include, but are not limited to, safety, economics,
19 energy savings, industry productivity and competition. Vehicles to which sub. (2) (f),
20 (fm), and (gm), ~~and (gr)~~ and s. 348.08 (1) (e) apply may also operate on highways not
21 designated under this subsection for a distance of 15 miles or less in order to obtain
22 access to a highway designated under this subsection or to reach fuel, food,
23 maintenance, repair, rest, staging, terminal or vehicle assembly facilities or points
24 of loading or unloading. The secretary may, by rule, designate an access route of more
25 than 15 miles from a highway designated under this subsection when the longer

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1 route provides safer and better access to a location which is within the 15-mile limit.
2 Household goods carriers may operate between highways designated under this
3 subsection and points of loading and unloading.

4 **SECTION 11.** 348.07 (4m) of the statutes is amended to read:

5 348.07 **(4m)** The secretary shall, by rule, designate those parts of the state
6 trunk highway system to which sub. (2) (fs) and (gv) do not apply. For each part of
7 the state trunk highway system designated under this subsection, the secretary
8 shall specify the factors that resulted in the determination to designate the part as
9 not suitable to accommodate vehicle lengths as specified in sub. (2) (fs) and (gv). The
10 secretary may, by rule, establish exceptions to the vehicle-combination length
11 limitation specified in sub. (1), including establishing any greater or lesser length
12 limitation than that specified in sub. (1), with respect to specific types of vehicles
13 identified by the secretary or highways designated by the secretary, but the secretary
14 may not establish under this subsection any length limitation inconsistent with sub.
15 (2) or (2a) or s. 348.08 (1).

16 **SECTION 12.** 348.08 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

17 348.08 **(1)** (a) Two or 3 vehicles may, without such permit, be drawn or attached
18 when such vehicles are being transported by the drive-away method in saddlemount
19 combination and the overall length of such combination of vehicles does not exceed
20 65 75 feet.

21 **SECTION 13.** 348.25 (4) (intro.) of the statutes, as affected by 2011 Wisconsin
22 Acts 56, 57 and 58, is amended to read:

23 348.25 **(4)** (intro.) Except as provided under s. 348.26 (4), ~~(5)~~, (6), or (7) or 348.27
24 (3), (3m), (4m), (9), (9m), (9r), (9t), (10), (12), ~~(13)~~, (15), ~~or~~ (16), or (18) permits shall
25 be issued only for the transporting of a single article or vehicle which exceeds

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1 statutory size, weight or load limitations and which cannot reasonably be divided or
2 reduced to comply with statutory size, weight or load limitations, except that:

3 **SECTION 14.** 348.26 (5) of the statutes is repealed.

4 **SECTION 15.** 348.27 (13) of the statutes is repealed.

5 **SECTION 16.** 348.28 (1) of the statutes, as affected by 2011 Wisconsin Acts 55,
6 56 and 58, is amended to read:

7 348.28 (1) Permits issued under ss. 348.25, 348.26 and 348.27 and ~~(16)~~ shall
8 be carried on the vehicle during operations so permitted.

9 **SECTION 17. Initial applicability.**

10 (1) This act first applies to vehicles operated on the effective date of this
11 subsection.

12 **SECTION 18. Effective date.**

13 (1) This act takes effect on the first day of the 7th month beginning after
14 publication.

15 (END)