



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2011 Wisconsin Act 59
[2011 Assembly Bill 267]

Three-Vehicle Combinations

Under *current law*, the Department of Transportation (DOT) may issue annual or consecutive month permits for certain three-vehicle combinations that consist of the following vehicles:

1. A towing vehicle.
2. A recreational vehicle or camping trailer.
3. A trailer for a personal recreational vehicle.

The overall length of the combination of vehicles may not exceed 60 feet or, if the middle vehicle in the three-vehicle combination is equipped with brakes, 65 feet. Unless it is not structurally possible, the lighter of the towed vehicles must occupy the last position in the three-vehicle combination. The towed vehicles must be for the use of the operator of the towing vehicle. A three-vehicle combination may not be operated if specified highway or weather conditions are present.

2011 Wisconsin Act 59 allows operation of three-vehicle combinations without a permit if the three-vehicle combination consists of:

1. A towing vehicle.
2. A recreational vehicle or camping trailer.
3. Another recreational vehicle or camping trailer, a trailer carrying any vehicle for recreational use, or a trailer carrying no load.

The Act defines “vehicle for recreational use” to include a bicycle, moped, motor bicycle, motorcycle, all-terrain vehicle, snowmobile, boat, sailboard, personal watercraft, or electric personal

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/>.

assistive mobility device, but not an automobile, motor truck, motor home, play vehicle, or in-line skates.

The Act requires that the heavier of the towed vehicles must occupy the middle position of the three-vehicle combination unless it is not structurally possible. The overall length of the combination of vehicles may not exceed 65 feet and, if the total loaded weight of all towed vehicles exceeds 3,000 pounds, one of the towed vehicles must be equipped with brakes.

The Act removes the requirement that the towed vehicles must be for the use of the operator of the towing vehicle, but retains the requirement that a three-vehicle combination may not be operated if specified highway or weather conditions are present.

Effective date: November 24, 2011

Initial applicability: The Act first applies to three-vehicle combinations operated on the effective date of the Act.

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LAK:jb;wu