



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2011 Wisconsin Act 147
[2011 Assembly Bill 518]

Scenic Byways

Under *current law*, the Department of Transportation (DOT) must develop, implement, and administer the Scenic Byways program. The Scenic Byways program is meant to designate highways that have outstanding scenic, historic, cultural, natural, recreational, or archaeological qualities. Current law has been interpreted to limit highways designated as scenic byways to state trunk highways.

2011 Wisconsin Act 147 requires DOT to develop a plan to designate state trunk highways *and* local highways that have certain outstanding characteristics as scenic byways. Additionally, the Act provides that the authority that has jurisdiction over a highway, for maintenance purposes, has exclusive authority to erect signs designating a highway as a scenic byway and bears all expense in connection with the erection and maintenance of the signs.

Effective date: Act 147 takes effect on April 7, 2012.

Prepared by: Michael Queensland, Staff Attorney

March 29, 2012

MQ:jb;jal

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/>.