SENATE BILL 9

October 11, 2011 – Introduced by COMMITTEE ON SENATE ORGANIZATION, by request of Governor Scott Walker, Senator Lazich, and Representative Petrowski. Referred to Committee on Transportation and Elections.

AN ACT to repeal 348.07 (2) (c); and to amend 194.32 and 348.07 (1) of the statutes; relating to: the maximum permissible length of single vehicles operated on a highway without an overlength permit.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, with limited exceptions, no person may operate on a highway any single vehicle with an overall length in excess of 40 feet or any combination of two vehicles with an overall length in excess of 65 feet, unless the person has a permit to exceed these lengths.

This bill increases, from 40 feet to 45 feet, the maximum overall length of a single vehicle that may be operated on a highway without an overlength permit.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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

SECTION 1. 194.32 of the statutes is amended to read:

194.32 Buses, restrictions. No common motor carrier of passengers shall operate any passenger–carrying bus over any public highway of this state with any
trailer or semitrailer attached except for an articulated bus as defined in s. 340.01 (2m). Except for an articulated bus as defined in s. 340.01 (2m) which may be 65 feet in length, no interurban motor bus which exceeds 40 feet in length or 8 feet 6 inches in width or is of a double-decked open-roof design shall be operated upon the public highways under the authority of this chapter. As used in this section an interurban motor bus is deemed to be of a “double-decked open-roof design” when passengers are carried therein on an upper level throughout the length of the bus over passengers on a lower level throughout the length of the bus and the bus roof does not extend throughout the length of the bus or is not permanently enclosed with rigid construction.

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

348.07 (1) No person, without a permit therefor, may operate on a highway any single vehicle with an overall length in excess of 40 feet or any combination of 2 vehicles with an overall length in excess of 65 feet, except as otherwise provided in subs. (2) and (2a).

SECTION 3. 348.07 (2) (c) of the statutes is repealed.

SECTION 4. Initial applicability.

(1) This act first applies to violations committed on the effective date of this subsection, but does not preclude the counting of other violations as prior violations for purposes of sentencing a person.

SECTION 5. Effective date.

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