



2013 SENATE BILL 592

February 13, 2014 – Introduced by Senator GROTHMAN, cosponsored by Representative J. OTT. Referred to Committee on Judiciary and Labor.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 343.15 (2) (b) of the statutes; **relating to:** the liability of an
2 adult sponsor of a minor applicant for a motor vehicle operator’s license.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, with limited exceptions, an application for a motor vehicle operator’s license by a person under the age of 18 (minor) must be signed and verified by a parent or other adult sponsor. After the operator’s license is issued, any negligence or willful misconduct of the minor when operating a motor vehicle is imputed to the parents or to the adult sponsor who signed the application. The parents or the adult sponsor is jointly and severally liable with the minor for any damages caused by the minor’s negligent or willful misconduct.

This bill creates a limit for liability imputed to the parents or adult sponsor for damages caused by the minor’s negligent or willful misconduct. Under the bill, liability is limited to a total of \$300,000 for all parents or adult sponsors to all parties arising from any one accident.

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

3 **SECTION 1.** 343.15 (2) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:
4 343.15 (2) (b) Any negligence or willful misconduct of a person under the age
5 of 18 years when operating a motor vehicle upon the highways is imputed to the

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1 parents where both have custody and either parent signed as sponsor, otherwise, it
2 is imputed to the adult sponsor who signed the application for such person's license.
3 The parents or the adult sponsor is jointly and severally liable with such operator for
4 any damages caused by such negligent or willful misconduct. The liability imputed
5 under this paragraph is limited to a maximum total of \$300,000 for all parents or
6 adult sponsors to all parties arising from any one accident.

7 **SECTION 2. Initial applicability.**

8 (1) This act first applies to accidents occurring on the effective date of this
9 subsection.

10 (END)