



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2015 Wisconsin Act 202
[2015 Senate Bill 408]

**Liability of Adult Sponsor of Minor
Applicant for Operator's License**

Under Wisconsin law, the liability for negligence or willful misconduct of a minor under the age of 18 years when operating a motor vehicle is generally imputed to the minor's parents or to the adult sponsor who signed the application for the minor's operator's license. The parents are, or the adult sponsor is, jointly and severally liable with the minor for any damages caused by such negligent or willful misconduct.

2015 Wisconsin Act 202 limits the liability imputed to parents or adult sponsors under this provision. Specifically, the Act limits such liability to a maximum total of the higher of the following:

- \$300,000 for all parents or sponsors to all parties arising from any one accident.
- The limits of any insurance coverage provided to the minor under the parent's or sponsor's applicable insurance policies.

Effective date: March 3, 2016. The Act first applies to accidents occurring on March 3, 2016.

Prepared by: Jessica Karls-Ruplinger, Deputy Director

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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.wisconsin.gov>.