



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

**2015 Wisconsin Act 244**  
[2015 Senate Bill 514]

**Penalties for Violating Commercial  
Feed Requirements**

Wisconsin law regulates the content and labeling of commercial feed and feed products for animals and birds, and generally requires a person to obtain a license from the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection in order to manufacture or distribute commercial feed in Wisconsin. Prior Law, modified by the Act, provided that a person who violated these requirements was subject to a fine of up to \$200, imprisonment for up to six months, or both.

2015 Wisconsin Act 244 modifies penalties and creates forfeitures that apply to violations of these requirements. The Act provides that:

- A manufacturer or distributor who knowingly commits a violation may be fined up to \$5,000 or imprisoned for up to one year in the county jail, or both.
- A person, other than a manufacturer or distributor, who knowingly commits a violation may be fined up to \$1,000 or imprisoned for up to 30 days, or both.
- A person who commits a violation is subject to a civil forfeiture of between \$100 and \$500 for the first violation, and between \$200 and \$1,000 for any subsequent violation within five years.

**Effective date:** The Act first applies to violations committed on March 3, 2016, but it provides that violations committed before the date may be counted for the purpose of determining the amount of a civil forfeiture that may apply.

**Prepared by:** Zach Ramirez, Staff Attorney

March 10, 2016

ZR:mcm;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.wisconsin.gov>.