AN ACT to amend 341.08 (7), 341.09 (3), 341.28 (4) (c), 341.31 (1) (d), 341.33 (2), 343.20 (3) and 343.20 (4) of the statutes; relating to: operator’s licenses held by, and registration of motor vehicles by, persons on active duty in the U.S. foreign service.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, persons on active duty in the U.S. armed forces are accorded certain privileges related to vehicle registration and motor vehicle operator licensing. Among these are the following:

1. If, on the date of expiration of a vehicle’s registration, the registrant is on active duty in the U.S. armed forces and is absent from the state, the vehicle’s registration does not expire. Instead, the vehicle’s registration expires 30 days after the registrant returns to this state or 90 days after the registrant is discharged from active duty, whichever is earlier.

2. Upon proper application, the Department of Transportation (DOT) must issue, without charge, a temporary operation plate that authorizes a person who is engaged in the active military service of the United States or its allies and who has been granted a furlough to operate a vehicle without registration of the vehicle. The plate is valid while the applicant is on furlough and for a period not to exceed 30 days.

3. DOT must refund the unused portion of a registration fee paid for the registration of a vehicle owned by a person who is entering active service in the naval or military forces of the United States upon the person’s providing proof that the vehicle will not be operated in this or another state during the remainder of the
period for which the vehicle is registered and return of the certificate of registration and registration plates.

4. If a person who holds a valid license is unable to make a renewal application within the period declared by DOT due to serving with any branch of the armed services, the person may apply for a renewal of the license at any time during the person’s service or within six months after the date of discharge from service.

5. If, on the expiration date of an operator’s license, the licensee is on active duty in the U.S. armed forces and is absent from this state, the license does not expire. Instead, the license expires 30 days after the licensee returns to the state or 90 days after the licensee is discharged from active duty, whichever is earlier.

6. In general, a person must pay the vehicle registration fee for the entire registration period. In certain cases, a person who has been in active military service is entitled to pay a part-period fee.

Under this bill, each of the privileges listed above is also accorded to persons on active duty in the U.S. foreign service.

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. 341.08 (7) of the statutes is amended to read:

341.08 (7) A vehicle’s registration does not expire on the date of expiration of registration under ss. 341.25 to 341.36 if, on that date of expiration, the registrant is on active duty in the U.S. armed forces and is absent from this state or is a member of the U.S. foreign service appointed under 22 USC 3942 (a) (1) or 3943 who is on active duty and is absent from this state. Any registration extended under this subsection expires 30 days after the registrant returns to this state or 90 days after the registrant is discharged from active duty, whichever is earlier. If a registration is renewed after an extension under this subsection, the renewal period shall begin on the day after the date of expiration of registration.

SECTION 2. 341.09 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

341.09 (3) Upon application therefore to the department by a person engaged in the active military service of the United States or its allies or who is a member of
the U.S. foreign service appointed under 22 USC 3942 (a) (1) or 3943 who is on active
duty and upon satisfactory proof of the active military or foreign service status of the
applicant and of being granted a furlough, the department shall issue to the
applicant without charge a temporary operation plate which that authorizes the
applicant to operate any vehicle owned or designated by the applicant without
registration of the vehicle. The plate is valid only while the applicant is on furlough
and for a period not to exceed 30 days. The department shall determine the size,
color, design, form, and specifications of a plate issued under this subsection. The
plate may be similar or identical to a plate issued under sub. (2).

**SECTION 3.** 341.28 (4) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

341.28 (4) (c) The automobile is owned by a person who has been in active
military service or who is a member of the U.S. foreign service appointed under 22
USC 3942 (a) (1) or 3943 who has been in active service and less than 12 months of
nonoperation have elapsed since the end of the period for which the automobile was
previously registered, provided the applicant files with the department a statement
of such nonoperation.

**SECTION 4.** 341.31 (1) (d) of the statutes is amended to read:

341.31 (1) (d) The vehicle is owned by a person who has been in active military
service or who is a member of the U.S. foreign service appointed under 22 USC 3942
(a) (1) or 3943 who has been in active service and less than 12 months of nonoperation
have elapsed since the end of the period for which the vehicle was previously
registered, provided the applicant files with the department a statement of such
nonoperation.

**SECTION 5.** 341.33 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:
341.33 (2) The department shall refund the unused portion of a registration fee paid for the registration of a vehicle owned by a person who is entering active service in the naval or military forces of the United States or who is a member of the U.S. foreign service appointed under 22 USC 3942 (a) (1) or 3943 entering active service if the person makes application for such refund upon a form prescribed by the department, furnishes such proof as that the department may require requires that the vehicle will not be operated in this or another state during the remainder of the period for which the vehicle is registered, and returns to the department the certificate of registration and registration plates. The refund shall be computed on the basis of one-twelfth of the annual registration fee or one twenty-fourth of the biennial registration fee paid for the vehicle, multiplied by the number of full months remaining in the period for which the vehicle is registered when the vehicle ceases to be operated.

SECTION 6. 343.20 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

343.20 (3) Any person who holds a valid license and who is unable to make a renewal application within the period declared by the department, due to serving with any branch of the armed services or as a member of the U.S. foreign service appointed under 22 USC 3942 (a) (1) or 3943, may apply for a renewal of the license at any time during such service or within 6 months after the date of discharge from such services.

SECTION 7. 343.20 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

343.20 (4) Any license issued under this chapter does not expire on the expiration date on the license if, on that expiration date, the licensee is on active duty in the U.S. armed forces and is absent from this state or is a member of the U.S. foreign service appointed under 22 USC 3942 (a) (1) or 3943 who is on active duty and
is absent from this state. Any license extended under this subsection expires 30 days after the licensee returns to this state or 90 days after the licensee is discharged from active duty, whichever is earlier. If a license is renewed after an extension under this subsection, the renewal period shall begin on the day after the expiration date on the license.