February 9, 2016 – Introduced by Representatives MACCO, KAHL, BERCEAU, BROSTOFF, JOHNSON, KREMER, T. LARSON, A. OTT, POPE, ROHRKASTE, SKOWRONSKI, SUBECK and THIESFELDT, cosponsored by Senators HANSEN and COWLES. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

AN ACT to amend 347.25 (2) of the statutes; relating to: warning lights on school buses.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, a school bus must be equipped with a 360-degree flashing white strobe light and either flashing red warning lights or flashing red and amber warning lights. Under this bill, a school bus of model year 2005 or later must be equipped with a 360-degree flashing white strobe light and flashing red and amber warning lights. A school bus of model year 2004 or earlier must be equipped as provided under current law.

For further information see the state and local 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. 347.25 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

347.25 (2) No person may operate a school bus which of a model year of 2004 or earlier that is painted as provided in s. 347.44 unless it is equipped with a 360-degree flashing white strobe light having a flashrate of 60 to 120 per minute and
either flashing red warning lights or flashing red and amber warning lights. No person may operate a school bus of a model year of 2005 or later that is painted as provided in s. 347.44 unless it is equipped with a 360-degree flashing white strobe light having a flashrate of 60 to 120 per minute and flashing red and amber warning lights. The secretary shall prescribe rules for the type, installation, operation, and light output brilliance of the lights required under this subsection. No vehicle may be equipped with the warning and strobe lights required under this subsection unless it also is painted as provided in s. 347.44.

SECTION 2. Effective date.

(1) This act takes effect on August 1, 2016.