AN ACT to amend 347.45 (5); and to create 341.266 (1) (am) 5. of the statutes; relating to: registration of half-track former military vehicles.

This bill allows a half-track former military vehicle to be registered by the Department of Transportation.

Under current law, DOT must refuse registration of a vehicle under specified circumstances, such as when the applicant has not paid the registration fee or does not hold a certificate of title for the vehicle. DOT must also refuse registration of a vehicle that is originally designed and manufactured for off-highway operation unless the vehicle meets certain federal motor vehicle safety standards, except that this prohibition does not apply to certain former military vehicles eligible for specific registration categories.

Under current law, there are two special registration categories for certain former military vehicles. Current law authorizes DOT to register certain types of former military vehicles that are at least 25 years old, including Pinzgauers and certain Kaiser Jeeps, as a specific type of special interest (“collector”) vehicle. Collector vehicles are subject to some operating restrictions, most notably that they generally cannot be operated on the highways in January. Current law also authorizes DOT to register certain former military vehicles as historic military vehicles. Historic military vehicles are subject to significant operating restrictions and generally may be used only for special occasions such as parades and special events and for testing and maintenance.
This bill allows a vehicle that is equipped with tires at the front and with rubber tracks or tracks made of equivalent material at the rear to be registered as a type of special interest vehicle.

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. 341.266 (1) (am) 5. of the statutes is created to read:

341.266 (1) (am) 5. A vehicle that is equipped with tires at the front and with rubber tracks or tracks made of equivalent material at the rear and that is commonly referred to as a half-track.

SECTION 2. 347.45 (5) of the statutes is amended to read:

347.45 (5) Notwithstanding sub. subs. (1) and (2), an implement of husbandry or a former military vehicle under s. 341.266 (1) (am) 5. equipped with rubber tracks or tracks made of equivalent material may be operated on a highway if such operation will not injure the highway.

SECTION 3. Initial applicability.

(1) This act first applies to applications received by the department of transportation on the effective date of this subsection.