March 15, 2019 -Introduced by Senators LeMAHIEU, BEWLEY, COWLES, KOODY, MARKLEIN and WANGGAARD, cosponsored by Representatives STEFFEN, BROOKS, KATSMA, SUECK, TITTL, TUSLER and VORPAGL. Referred to Committee on Government Operations, Technology and Consumer Protection.

AN ACT to amend 135.02 (6) of the statutes; relating to: the applicability of the Wisconsin Fair Dealership Law.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau
This bill exempts a unit or instrumentality of the federal government, the state, or a local government from the Wisconsin Fair Dealership Law.

The Wisconsin Fair Dealership Law currently governs certain aspects of the relationship between a person who grants another person a dealership situated in this state. The Wisconsin Supreme Court, in Benson v. City of Madison, 2017 WI 65, 376 Wis. 2d 35, 57, has ruled that the Wisconsin Fair Dealership Law applies to cities.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 135.02 (6) of the statutes is amended to read:

135.02 (6) “Person” means a natural person, partnership, joint venture, corporation, or other entity, but does not include a unit or instrumentality of the federal government, the state, or a local government.

SECTION 2. Initial applicability.
(1) This act first applies to a contract or agreement that is in effect on the effective date of this subsection.