AN ACT to repeal 341.04 (intro.); to renumber 341.04 (1) (b) and 341.04 (1) (c); to renumber and amend 341.04 (1) (a); to amend 341.04 (title), 341.04 (1) (intro.) and 341.18 (2); and to create 341.04 (2m) (d) of the statutes; relating to: operation of unregistered vehicles.

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

SECTION 1. 341.04 (title) of the statutes is amended to read:

341.04 (title) Penalty for operating Operation of unregistered or improperly registered vehicle.

SECTION 2. 341.04 (intro.) of the statutes is repealed.

SECTION 3. 341.04 (1) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

341.04 (1) It is unlawful for any person to operate or for an owner to consent to being operated on any highway of this state any motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer, or any other vehicle for which a registration fee is specifically prescribed, unless at the time of operation the vehicle in question either is registered or any of the following applies:

(a) The vehicle is registered in this state; or, except in the case of a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer, or any other vehicle, the vehicle has been delivered to the department, submitted to a dealer under s. 341.09 (2m) for transmittal to the department, or deposited in the mail properly addressed with postage prepaid and if the vehicle in question is a trailer or semitrailer, the certificate of title has been delivered to the department.

(b) The vehicle in question is exempt from registration.

SECTION 4. 341.04 (1) (a) of the statutes is renumbered 341.04 (2m) (a) and amended to read:

341.04 (2m) (a) A vehicle may be operated by a private person after the date of purchase of such the vehicle by such private the person moved to this state if application for registration, except for registration under s. 341.30 or 341.305, and certificate of title has been made and the person otherwise complies with any applicable requirements of this section.

SECTION 5. 341.04 (1) (b) of the statutes is renumbered 341.04 (2m) (b).

SECTION 6. 341.04 (1) (c) of the statutes is renumbered 341.04 (2m) (c).

SECTION 7. 341.04 (2m) (d) of the statutes is created to read:

341.04 (2m) (d) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to the operation of a vehicle that is caused by pressure of
natural physical forces causing the owner or operator reasonably to believe that operation of the vehicle is the only means of preventing imminent death or great bodily harm, as defined in s. 939.22 (14), to a person or imminent public disaster.

**Section 8.** 341.18 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

341.18 (2) If a person claims as a defense to a citation for failure to display evidence of registration that the person has made application for annual registration as provided in s. 341.04 (1) **bm**, and no such application was submitted to the department and the person is convicted of operating the vehicle without registration, the person shall be required to pay the full annual fee upon registration of the vehicle, notwithstanding the eligibility of the vehicle for registration under s. 341.30 or 341.305. The court or the department shall order the annual registration under s. 341.04 (3) (c).