
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2025 Assembly Bill 78

**Assembly Amendment 1
and Senate Amendment 1**

2025 ASSEMBLY BILL 78

2025 Assembly Bill 78 enables a political subdivision to pass an ordinance authorizing a law enforcement officer to seize and impound a vehicle upon issuing a citation for reckless driving to the driver of the vehicle. Under the bill, the vehicle may remain impounded until all the costs of impounding the vehicle are paid, and any forfeitures or fines the owner owes are also paid.

Under the bill, the law enforcement officer who seizes a vehicle must take steps to determine whether the vehicle has been reported as stolen; if it has been reported as stolen, the bill requires the officer or the political subdivision to make a reasonable attempt to contact the owner and to return the vehicle to its owner without charge.

If an impounded vehicle remains unclaimed for 90 days after the disposition of the citation for reckless driving, or for 60 days after a law enforcement officer determines the vehicle has been reported stolen, the bill authorizes the political subdivision to dispose of the vehicle in the same manner it may dispose of an abandoned vehicle.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Under Assembly Amendment 1, the impoundment authorized by an ordinance may occur when a law enforcement officer issues a citation or arrests a person for a reckless driving offense. Under the amendment, a political subdivision may dispose of a vehicle if it remains unclaimed for 90 days after the disposition of the charge for reckless driving.

SENATE AMENDMENT 1

Under Senate Amendment 1, impoundment authorized by an ordinance is at the discretion of the law enforcement officer responding to the violation for which a vehicle may be impounded.

BILL HISTORY

Representative Donovan offered Assembly Amendment 1 on March 13, 2025. On March 13, 2025, the amendment was adopted by the Assembly and Assembly Bill 78, as amended, was passed by the Assembly and ordered immediately messaged to the Senate. Senator Wanggaard introduced Senate Amendment 1 on October 13, 2025. On October 14, 2025, the amendment was adopted by the Senate and Assembly Bill 78 was concurred in, as amended, both on voice votes. On the same day, the Assembly concurred in Senate Amendment 1 and concurred in the bill, as amended, both on voice votes.

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's [bill history page](#).

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