



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2003 Wisconsin Act 213 [2003 Assembly Bill 501]	Maximum Permissible Length and Width of Motor Homes and Recreational Vehicles
2003 Acts: www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/	Act Memos: www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm

Under **current law**, no person may operate upon a highway any vehicle or combination of vehicles that exceeds certain statutory limits on size, weight, or load unless that person possesses a permit issued by the Department of Transportation. Current law generally prohibits a person from operating on a highway, without a permit, any vehicle having a total outside width in excess of eight feet six inches. An exception to this prohibition allows a person to operate without a permit a mobile home with a “realistic body width” that does not exceed eight feet six inches. Current law defines a “mobile home” as a vehicle, with walls of rigid uncollapsible construction, designed to be towed as a single unit or in sections upon a highway and equipped and used, or intended to be used, primarily for human habitation. A “recreational vehicle” is defined as a mobile home that is no more than 45 feet long. A “motor home” is defined as a motor vehicle designed to be operated upon a highway for use as a temporary or recreational dwelling and having the same internal characteristics and equipment as a mobile home.

2003 Wisconsin Act 213 allows a person to operate without a permit a mobile home, motor home, or recreational vehicle that has a realistic body width not exceeding eight feet six inches and a motor home or recreational vehicle used only as a temporary or recreational dwelling that has an appurtenance, such as a retracted awning, related to the structure of the vehicle and installed upon the vehicle by a manufacturer or dealer that extends up to an additional four inches on the driver side and six inches on the passenger side of the vehicle provided that, if the appurtenance extends to the maximum extent, it is located at a height of at least eight feet.

Current law generally prohibits a person from operating on a highway, without a permit, any single vehicle with an overall length in excess of 40 feet. An exception to this prohibition allows a person to operate without a permit a mobile home that does not exceed 45 feet in overall length.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents.

2003 Wisconsin Act 213 allows a person to operate without a permit a motor home that does not exceed 45 feet in overall length. This has the effect of increasing the maximum length limit for motor homes, without a permit, from 40 feet to 45 feet.

Effective Date: The effective date of 2003 Wisconsin Act 213 is April 23, 2004.

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PGC:rv