



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2009 Wisconsin Act 135
[2009 Assembly Bill 592]

**Registration of Former Military
Vehicles**

2009 Wisconsin Act 135 allows former military vehicles to be registered in a similar manner to antique vehicles with similar operating restrictions. Act 135 authorizes the registration of a former military vehicle as a “historic military vehicle” if it is at least 25 years old and has been imported into the United States from another country or if it has not been imported and is of any age.

The Act defines a former military vehicle as a vehicle, including a trailer but excluding a tracked vehicle that was manufactured for use in any country’s military forces and is maintained to accurately represent its military design and markings, regardless of the vehicle’s size or weight. In order to register the vehicle, the applicant must show that it qualifies as a former military vehicle. Vehicles registered as historic military vehicles may only be used for special occasions such as display and parade purposes, including traveling to and from such events, and for necessary testing, maintenance, and storage purposes.

While under Act 135 the Department of Transportation (DOT) is prohibited from registering any vehicle that was manufactured for use in any country’s military forces and that does not meet the federal motor vehicle safety standards as anything other than a historic military vehicle, the Act does allow a municipal or county vehicle operated in the public service to be registered, even if the vehicle was originally designed and manufactured for off-roadway operation, does not meet federal motor vehicle safety standards, and was manufactured for use in a country’s military.

The Act requires the DOT to issue vehicle special plates with a distinctive design to show that the vehicle is registered as a historic military vehicle. There is a one-time \$5 registration fee and there is no fee for renewal. Additionally, an applicant will be charged a \$25 processing fee to cover the initial costs of production of special plates until DOT recovers \$11,800 for its costs of plate development.

Effective date: October 1, 2010

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.