



**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ACT MEMO**

2009 Wisconsin Act 255 [2009 Assembly Bill 552]	Following Snowplows
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Current law prohibits a person operating a vehicle from following an official snowplow closer than 200 feet on a highway with a speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour when the snowplow is: (1) engaged in winter highway maintenance snow and ice removal; and (2) displaying two flashing red or amber lamps or a flashing red or amber lamp of the dome-light type. 2009 Wisconsin Act 255 prohibits a person operating a vehicle from following an officially engaged snowplow closer than 75 feet upon a highway having a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less.

Act 255 also requires a person operating a vehicle to stop not less than 20 feet when approaching a snowplow from the rear, while the snowplow is engaged as described above and stopped at an intersection. Additionally, the Act requires the person operating a vehicle to remain stopped until the snowplow resumes motion. The exceptions under current law regarding overtaking and passing a snowplow remain in effect. However, if an operator of a motor vehicle follows the officially engaged snowplow more closely than the allowed distance for the speed limit for one mile or more when the snowplow is moving at the maximum speed limit, this is sufficient evidence that the operator of the following vehicle is violating the distance restrictions under the law.

A person violating these provisions is subject to existing penalties which is forfeiture of not less than \$20 nor more than \$40 for the first offense and not less than \$50 nor more than \$100 for the second and subsequent convictions within a year.

Effective date: May 22, 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/>.