



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2013 Wisconsin Act 15
[2013 Senate Bill 32]

**All-Terrain and Utility Terrain
Vehicle Age and Speed Restrictions
and Safety Requirements**

2013 Wisconsin Act 15 makes changes to the age limits, speed restrictions, and safety requirements that apply to operating all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and utility terrain vehicles (UTVs).

AGE RESTRICTIONS

Under current law, a person younger than 12 years of age may operate an ATV under the following circumstances:

- He or she is operating a small ATV on an ATV trail designated by the Department of Natural Resources and is accompanied by his or her parent.
- He or she is operating the ATV on land under the management and control of his or her immediate family.
- He or she is operating the ATV for agricultural purposes and is under the supervision of a person over 18 years of age.

Current law authorizes a person younger than 16 years of age to operate a UTV under the latter two exceptions applicable to ATV operation, described above.

2013 Wisconsin Act 15 adds to the list of circumstances a person younger than 12 years of age may operate an ATV or UTV, operation on land under the management and control of a person who consents to the operation of an ATV or UTV on the land if the child is accompanied by his or her parent or guardian or by a person who is designated by the parent or guardian. The Act also modifies the circumstances under which a person under age 12 may operate a small ATV on an ATV trail. It allows such operation if the person is accompanied by his or her parent or guardian or a person who is at least 18 years of age and is designated by the parent or guardian.

Current law authorizes the operation of ATVs or UTVs on the roadway portion of a highway only in specified instances, such as on portions of highways that have been designated as ATV trails or ATV routes. **The Act** provides that a person who is under 16 years of age may only operate an ATV

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.wisconsin.gov>.

under these circumstances if he or she is accompanied by his or her parent or guardian or another adult designated by his or her parent or guardian.

SPEED RESTRICTIONS

Under current law, no person may operate an ATV or UTV at a speed exceeding 10 miles per hour within 100 feet of a dwelling. *The Act* applies this speed limit to operation within 100 feet of another person who is not operating a motor vehicle, ATV, UTV, or snowmobile. It exempts from the 10 miles per hour limit operation on a roadway that is designated as an ATV route, and operation while competing in a sanctioned race or derby.

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Current law prohibits a person from operating an ATV or UTV unless he or she holds a valid safety certificate. This requirement applies to persons who are at least 12 years old with respect to ATV operation, and persons who are at least 16 years old with respect to UTV operation. Current law provides an exception to this requirement for operation on land under the management and control of the person's immediate family.

The Act provides an additional circumstance under which a person is exempted from the safety certificate requirement. This exemption applies to operation at qualified ATV or UTV demonstration events, as long as the operation is on a closed course and the person wears protective headgear. If the person is under 18 years of age, he or she must also be accompanied by his or her parent or guardian, or a person designated by his or her parent or guardian.

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