



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2013 Wisconsin Act 313
[2013 Assembly Bill 539]

**Emergency Vehicles Operated as
Escorts for Vehicle Processions**

Under current law, the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle is generally exempted from traffic restrictions relating to speed and traffic signals only if he or she is responding to an emergency call or in pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law and the vehicle's warning lights and siren are activated. Current law, however, authorizes police vehicles, with warning lights activated, to escort another vehicle or procession of vehicles. For each escorted vehicle or vehicle procession, there must be at least one police vehicle escort in the lead and at least one police vehicle escort at the rear of the vehicle or vehicle procession. The escorting police vehicles and escorted vehicles are not required to stop at red traffic signals or stop signs, but must obey all other traffic laws.

2013 Wisconsin Act 313 allows certain other authorized emergency vehicles, including fire department vehicles and ambulances, to escort other vehicles or vehicle processions with warning lights activated, in the same manner, and subject to the same privileges and limitations, as police vehicles under current law.

Effective date: 2013 Wisconsin Act 313 took effect on April 18, 2014, and first applies to vehicles operated on that date.

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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.wisconsin.gov>.