



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2015 Wisconsin Act 183
[2015 Senate Bill 29]

**Obtaining a Search Warrant for
Certain Civil Violations**

Under current law, a court may, upon finding probable cause, issue a warrant that allows a law enforcement officer to search and seize anything which is the fruit of or has been used in the commission of any crime. In Wisconsin, first-offense operating while intoxicated (OWI) is generally a civil offense, not a crime. 2015 Wisconsin Act 183 authorizes a court to issue a warrant, upon probable cause, for the search or seizure of anything that is the fruit of or has been used in the commission of an OWI offense, whether criminal or noncriminal.

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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>.