



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

**2017 Wisconsin Act 40**  
[2017 Senate Bill 9]

**Court Proceedings for Traffic  
Violations**

Under prior law, if a defendant appeared in circuit court in response to a traffic citation, the court was required to ask the defendant whether he or she wanted to plead or wanted a continuance. If the defendant pled not guilty, the court determined whether the defendant wanted an immediate trial or a continuance.

2017 Wisconsin Act 40 deletes the requirement, for traffic citations, that a circuit court ask the defendant whether he or she wants to plead or wants a continuance. However, as under prior law, the defendant may plead guilty, not guilty, or no contest. The Act continues to allow the defendant to request a continuance, and, if the defendant requests a continuance, the court must adjourn the arraignment without entering any plea. Lastly, the Act deletes the option for an immediate trial in circuit court for traffic citations other than parking violations.

*Effective date:* August 4, 2017

*Prepared by:* Jessica Karls-Ruplinger, Deputy Director

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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>.