
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



Prepared by: David Moore, Senior Staff Attorney

April 14, 2022

2021 Wisconsin Act 164 [2021 Senate Bill 506]

Posting of Speed Limits Applicable to ATVs and UTVs

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and utility terrain vehicles (UTVs) may only be operated on the roadway¹ portion of a highway² in limited circumstances, and only if the operator complies with the applicable speed limits. One circumstance under which ATVs and UTVs may be operated on roadways is if a county, town, city, or village with jurisdiction over the highway designates the highway as an ATV “route.”

2021 Wisconsin Act 164 allows a county, town, city, or village to post a speed limit on any highway under its jurisdiction it has designated as an ATV route that applies only to ATVs and UTVs and that is lower than the generally applicable speed limits for that highway.

Effective date: March 13, 2022

DM:jal

¹ For the purposes of the motor vehicle code, “roadway” is defined to mean “that portion of a highway between the regularly established curb lines or that portion which is improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, excluding the berm or shoulder. In a divided highway the term ‘roadway’ refers to each roadway separately but not to all such roadways collectively.” [s. 340.01 (54), Stats.]

² The motor vehicle code defines “highway,” broadly, to mean “all public ways and thoroughfares and bridges on the same. It includes the entire width between the boundary lines of every way open to the use of the public as a matter of right for the purposes of vehicular travel. It includes those roads or driveways in the state, county or municipal parks and in state forests which have been opened to the use of the public for the purpose of vehicular travel and roads or driveways upon the grounds of public schools, as defined [by statute], and institutions under the jurisdiction of the county board of supervisors, but does not include private roads or driveways as defined [elsewhere by statute.].” [s. 340.01 (22), Stats.]