



**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
AMENDMENT MEMO**

2003 Assembly Bill 274

**Assembly Amendment 1 to
Senate Amendment 1**

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CURRENT LAW

Current law generally prohibits any person from driving a vehicle on a highway while towing two or more vehicles unless the driver possesses a permit issued by the Department of Transportation (DOT). DOT may issue annual or consecutive month permits for certain three-vehicle combinations that consist of the following vehicles: (1) a towing vehicle; (2) a mobile home or camping trailer; and (3) a boat trailer, motorcycle trailer, personal watercraft trailer, or all-terrain vehicle trailer.

The overall length of the combination of vehicles may not exceed 60 feet and, unless not structurally possible, the lighter of the towed vehicles must occupy the last position in the three-vehicle combination. The towed vehicles must be for the use of the driver of the towing vehicle. [s. 348.27 (7m), Stats.]

2003 ASSEMBLY BILL 274, AS AMENDED BY THE ASSEMBLY

2003 Assembly Bill 274, as amended by the Assembly, increases the maximum permissible overall length of the combination of vehicles *from 60 feet to 65 feet* but, *with one exception*, requires the middle vehicle in the three-vehicle combination to be equipped with brakes. Under the *exception*, a three-vehicle combination that is not equipped with brakes on the middle vehicle may be operated if the middle vehicle is of model year 1995 or earlier and the overall length of the three-vehicle combination does not exceed 60 feet.

The bill, as amended by the Assembly, expands the permissible towed vehicles described in item 3. under “Current Law,” above, to include *golf trailers, horse trailers, and other trailers for vehicles for personal recreational use*. The bill, as amended by the Assembly, does not allow the operation of these three-vehicle combinations under severe or unsafe highway or weather conditions.

SENATE AMENDMENT 1

The Senate concurred in the Assembly version of the bill, as amended by Senate Amendment 1. Senate Amendment 1 ***eliminates the permit requirement*** for the three-vehicle combinations as specified in the Assembly version of the bill.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1 TO SENATE AMENDMENT 1

The Assembly concurred in Senate Amendment 1, as amended by Assembly Amendment 1. Assembly Amendment 1 to Senate Amendment 1 does the following:

1. ***Restores the permit requirement*** by deleting all of the language in Senate Amendment 1.
2. ***Replaces the listing of vehicles*** that can be in the three-vehicle combination under the Assembly and Senate passed versions of the bill (namely, a mobile home or camping trailer, and a boat trailer, motorcycle trailer, personal watercraft trailer, all-terrain vehicle trailer, golf trailer, horse trailer, or other trailer ***for personal recreational use***) with “a mobile home or camping trailer, and a trailer ***for a personal recreational vehicle***.”
3. ***Continues current law relating to the length of the three-vehicle combination***, namely, “that the overall length of the combination of vehicles does not exceed 60 feet.” The amendment ***deletes*** the language “***and the second vehicle in the three-vehicle combination is of a model year of 1995 or earlier, or the overall length of the combination of vehicles does not exceed 65 feet and the second vehicle in the three-vehicle combination is equipped with brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop and hold it.***”

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

On November 13, 2003, the Assembly passed Assembly Bill 274 (as amended by Assembly Amendment 1 which was adopted on a voice vote) on a voice vote.

On March 11, 2004, the Senate concurred in the bill (as amended by Senate Amendment 1 which was adopted on a voice vote) on a voice vote.

On March 16, 2004, the Assembly concurred in Senate Amendment 1 (as amended by Assembly Amendment 1 which was adopted on a voice vote) on a voice vote. This action was immediately message to the Senate.

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