



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2003 Assembly Bill 90

Assembly Amendment 1

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Current law provides, with specific exceptions, that no person may drive a motor vehicle unless he or she is properly restrained by a safety belt and unless he or she reasonably believes that each passenger between the ages of four and fifteen years old is properly restrained by a safety belt. Current law prohibits a law enforcement officer from stopping or inspecting a motor vehicle solely to determine compliance with safety belt use requirements. The officer may, however, issue a citation for a violation observed in the course of a stop or inspection made for other purposes.

Assembly Bill 90 authorizes a law enforcement officer to stop or inspect a vehicle solely to determine compliance with safety belt use requirements, if the officer has probable cause to believe that a violation has occurred. Also, the bill increases the penalty for violating safety belt requirements from \$10 to \$25 for a first offense and to not less than \$50 nor more than \$75 for the second and each later offense committed within three years.

Assembly Amendment 1 provides an exemption to the seat belt requirement for persons who qualify for special registration plates for: (1) disabled veterans; (2) nonveteran disabled person; (3) a licensed driver whom a disabled person is regularly dependant; and (4) an employer provided vehicle for a disabled person. Also, an exemption is provided for persons who are physically disabled and have a special identification card.

Legislative History

The Assembly Committee on Transportation introduced Assembly Amendment 1 and recommended its adoption on a vote of Ayes, 12; Noes, 0; and recommended passage of Assembly Bill 90, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 8; Noes, 4; on April 24, 2003.

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