



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2009 Senate Bill 531

Senate Amendment 1

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CURRENT LAW

Under current law, with limited exceptions, no person may operate upon a highway any vehicle or combination of vehicles that exceeds certain statutory limits on size, weight, or load unless that person possesses a permit issued by the Department of Transportation (DOT). DOT may issue **an annual or consecutive month permit** (*Michigan border permit*) for an oversize or overweight vehicle or combination of vehicles to:

- Transport loads within 11 miles of the Wisconsin-Michigan state line; or
- Transport certain forest products on USH 2 in Iron County or Ashland County or in Bayfield County from the Ashland County line through Hart Lake Road, if the vehicle or vehicle combination is traveling between this state and Michigan and does not violate Michigan law.

2009 SENATE BILL 531

Senate Bill 531 allows a vehicle or vehicle combination operating under a Michigan border permit under the circumstances described in the second bullet-point, above, **to operate solely within Wisconsin**, eliminating the requirement that the vehicle or vehicle combination be traveling between Wisconsin and Michigan. However, if the vehicle or vehicle combination is traveling between Wisconsin and Michigan, it is still subject to the requirement that it not be in violation of Michigan law.

SENATE AMENDMENT 1 TO THE BILL

Senate Amendment 1 to the bill (offered by Senator Jauch) clarifies the intent and scope of the bill. Under Senate Amendment 1, DOT may **issue annual or consecutive month permits**, for the transportation on a vehicle or combination of vehicles of loads exceeding statutory length or weight limitations, **that authorize all of the following:**

- The transportation of loads over any class of highway for a distance not to exceed 11 miles from the Michigan-Wisconsin state line.
- The transportation of exclusively peeled or unpeeled forest products cut crosswise, wood chips, or forestry biomass anywhere upon USH 2 in Iron County or Ashland County or upon USH 2 in Bayfield County from the Ashland County line through Hart Lake Road if the vehicle or combination of vehicles is traveling between this state and Michigan and does not violate length or weight limitations established, as of April 28, 2004, under Michigan law.
- **The transportation of exclusively peeled or unpeeled forest products cut crosswise, wood chips, or forestry biomass upon USH 2 from STH 13 in the City of Ashland through Hart Lake Road in Bayfield County.**

If the roads desired to be used by an applicant for a permit under this provision involve streets or highways other than those within the state trunk highway system, the application must be accompanied by a **written statement of route approval** by the officer in charge of maintenance of the other highway.

Legislative History

At an executive session on April 1, 2010, the Senate Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources voted to recommend passage of the bill on a vote of Ayes, 7; Noes, 0. Subsequently, Senator Jauch introduced Senate Amendment 1 to the bill.

DLS:jal