



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2011 Senate Bill 322

**Senate
Amendments 1 and 2**

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Under *current law*, the Department of Transportation (DOT) may issue annual or consecutive month permits for the transportation of raw forest products in vehicle combinations having a gross weight not exceeding 98,000 pounds if the vehicle combination has six or more axles and meets other criteria (RS permits). “Raw forest products” include logs, poles, cordwood, wood chips, sawdust, and pulpwood. When issuing an overweight permit, DOT may impose reasonable restrictions on the permittee as it deems necessary for the safety of travel and protection of the highways. Additionally, DOT or a local highway authority may impose special weight limitations on a highway because of weakness of the roadbed due to deterioration or climatic conditions or other special or temporary conditions. These limitations must be posted by highway signs.

2011 Senate Bill 322 prohibits DOT from imposing any condition or limitation on an RS permit in connection with the thawing of frozen highways that are not state trunk highways or connecting highways. A vehicle with an RS permit, however, must still comply with posted weight limitations on highways where the highway authority has lowered the weight limitations.

Senate Amendment 1 specifies that DOT may also not suspend any RS permit in connection with the spring thaw.

Senate Amendment 2 changes the effective date of this subsection from the first day of the third month beginning after publication to the day after publication.

Legislative History

Senate Amendment 1 was offered by Senator Galloway on January 18, 2012. Senate Amendment 2 was offered by Senator Galloway on January 20, 2012. On February 9, 2012, the Senate Committee on Transportation and Elections unanimously recommended adoption of Senate Amendment 1 and Senate Amendment 2 and passage of Senate Bill 322, as amended.

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