



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2015 Senate Bill 153**

**Senate Amendment 1**

*Memo published: June 16, 2015*

*Contact: David Moore, Staff Attorney (266-1946)*

### CURRENT LAW

Current law establishes procedures for municipalities and counties to impound and dispose of abandoned vehicles. Very generally, these procedures provide for an abandoned vehicle to be auctioned to the highest bidder if the vehicle is not claimed after a certain period of time. In cases in which the cost of towing and impounding would exceed the vehicle's value, the vehicle may be either junked or sold prior to the expiration of the impoundment period if the chief of police or sheriff determines the vehicle is not stolen or wanted for evidence.

Current law also provides procedures for law enforcement to dispose of certain vehicles that have been seized and forfeited due to the commission of a crime. Generally, these procedures permit a law enforcement agency to retain the vehicle for official use or sell it.

### 2015 SENATE BILL 153

Senate Bill 153 authorizes a municipality or county to donate an abandoned or seized vehicle to a nonprofit organization as an alternative to junking it, selling it, or using it for official use.

### SENATE AMENDMENT 1

Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 153 removes the authority the bill provides for municipalities and counties to donate **seized** vehicles.

### BILL HISTORY

Senator Harsdorf offered Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 153 on June 3, 2015. On June 4, 2015, the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety voted to recommend adoption of Senate Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0, and passage of Senate Bill 153, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 4; Noes, 1.

DM:ksm