Wisconsin Legislative Council AMENDMENT MEMO



Memo published: October 6, 2021

2021 Assembly Bill 366

Contact: Ethan Lauer, Senior Staff Attorney

Assembly Amendment 1

2021 ASSEMBLY BILL 366

Under current law, snowmobile operation adjacent to a highway at night must conform to the direction of vehicular traffic in the nearest lane unless: (1) the snowmobile trail is located at least 40 feet from the roadway, or is separated from the roadway by a head lamp barrier; and (2) the use of the snowmobile trail is approved by the Department of Transportation with respect to snowmobile trails located near or crossing state trunk highways or by the officer in charge of maintenance with respect to snowmobile trails located near or crossing other highways. Among other changes to requirements governing snowmobile operation, Assembly Bill 366 removes these limitations and instead allows snowmobile operation adjacent to a highway at night that does not conform to the direction of traffic if the snowmobile is operated on a designated and marked snowmobile trail. The bill also requires a person operating a snowmobile during the hours of darkness or adjacent to a roadway to dim their head lamp when an oncoming snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle (ATV), utility terrain vehicle (UTV), or motor vehicle is within 500 feet.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 also allows ATV and UTV operation adjacent to a highway at night that does not conform to the same direction as motor vehicle traffic in the nearest lane if the ATV or UTV is operated on a designated and marked ATV trail or snowmobile trail.

BILL HISTORY

Representative Swearingen offered Assembly Amendment 1 on August 30, 2021. On October 5, 2021, the Assembly Committee on Transportation recommended adoption of the amendment, and passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 11; Noes, 0.

EL:ksm