
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2023 Assembly Bill 230

**Assembly Substitute
Amendment 1**

2023 ASSEMBLY BILL 230

2023 Assembly Bill 230 makes changes to the definition of “recreational vehicle” and creates a framework for regulating the relationship between recreational vehicle manufacturers, distributors, and dealers.

Under current law, a recreational vehicle is defined to mean “a vehicle that is designed to be towed upon a highway by a motor vehicle, that is equipped and used, or intended to be used, primarily for temporary or recreational human habitation, that has walls of rigid construction, and that does not exceed 45 feet in length.” 2023 Assembly Bill 230 alters the definition of recreational vehicle to specify that this term “includes a camping trailer, fifth-wheel travel trailer, park model recreational vehicle, travel trailer, and truck camper.” The bill provides definitions for each of these specific types of recreational vehicles.

The bill also establishes various requirements related to recreational vehicle manufacturers, distributors, and dealers. Among other provisions, these requirements include the following:

- The bill requires that a manufacturer or distributor must enter into a dealer agreement to sell a recreational vehicle to or through a dealer in this state, prohibits a dealer from selling a new recreational vehicle in this state without having first entered into a dealer agreement with a manufacturer or distributor, and establishes certain requirements for dealer agreements.
- The bill provides that a manufacturer or distributor may terminate, cancel, or fail to renew a dealer agreement only for good cause and establishes procedure for terminating, canceling, or failing to renew a dealer agreement. The bill provides various factors that may be considered for the purpose of determining whether good cause exists.
- The bill requires a dealer who wishes to make a change in ownership to give the manufacturer or distributor written notice at least 10 business days before the closing, along with certain documents, and provides that the manufacturer or distributor may not object to the proposed change except for certain specified reasons.
- The bill establishes requirements regarding warranty obligations, including that a warrantor specify a dealers’ obligation in writing, compensate the dealer for warranty service performed by the dealer that is covered by the warranty, and provide the dealer with the schedule of compensation to be paid and the time allowances for the performances of any work and service.
- The bill prohibits manufacturers or distributors from coercing or attempting to coerce a dealer into taking various actions, and it provides mechanisms for resolving disputes between a dealer, manufacturer, or warrantor.

ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 is similar to the bill, except as follows:

- The substitute amendment does not include “truck camper” in the definition of recreational vehicle.
- The substitute amendment defines “distributor” to mean “a resident or nonresident who, in whole or in part, sells or distributes new recreational vehicles to recreational vehicle dealers or who maintains distributor representatives.”
- The substitute amendment defines “fifth-wheel recreational vehicle” to mean “a recreational vehicle that is mounted on a wheel that is of a size and weight such that a special highway movement permit is not required, and that is designed to be towed by a motor vehicle using a king pin and fifth wheel coupling device mounted above or forward of the rear axle of the tow vehicle.”
- The substitute amendment requires a recreational vehicle manufacturer or distributor that sells recreational vehicles in the state to be licensed by the Department of Transportation (DOT).
- The substitute amendment requires a recreational vehicle dealer, as a condition of licensure by the DOT, to provide and maintain in force a bond or irrevocable letter of credit of not less than \$50,000.
- The substitute amendment changes the maximum length of a recreational vehicle to 46 feet and allows a recreational vehicle of this length to be operated without an oversize permit.
- The substitute amendment delays the effective date of the bill until the first day of the seventh month beginning after publication.

BILL HISTORY

Representative Krug offered Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to Assembly Bill 230 on January 10, 2024. On January 11, 2024, the Assembly Committee on Consumer Protection voted to recommend adoption of Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 7; Noes, 0. The committee then voted to recommend passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 9; Noes, 0.

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature’s [bill history page](#).

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