



2011 ASSEMBLY BILL 80

April 7, 2011 – Introduced by Representatives KRUSICK, STONE, TURNER, BIES, BROOKS, KAUFERT, KERKMAN, KLEEFISCH, KRUG, LEMAHIEU, MURSAU, NYGREN, J. OTT, RIPP, RIVARD, SPANBAUER and STASKUNAS, cosponsored by Senators CARPENTER, LAZICH, DARLING, HANSEN, OLSEN, SCHULTZ and ZIPPERER, by request of The family of Nicholas Dams, the family of Kristy Wanek, Rob Dams, father of Nicholas and retired Police Chief, Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association, Milwaukee County Law Enforcement Executive Association, Milwaukee Police Association, Milwaukee Deputy Sheriffs’ Association, Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm, and Greendale Professional Police Association. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 **AN ACT to repeal** 343.05 (5) (b) 3., 343.44 (1) (am), 343.44 (2) (am) and 343.44
2 (2) (e) to (h); **to renumber** 343.05 (5) (a); **to renumber and amend** 343.44 (2)
3 (a) and 343.44 (2) (as); **to amend** 343.05 (5) (b) 1., 343.30 (1g) (a), 343.30 (1g)
4 (b), 343.30 (2j) (a), 343.31 (2m) and 343.44 (2) (b) (intro.); and **to create** 343.05
5 (5) (ag), 343.05 (5) (b) 4. and 5., 343.30 (1d), 343.30 (1g) (c), 343.44 (2) (ad),
6 343.44 (2) (ag) 2. and 3., 343.44 (2) (ar) 3. and 4. and 343.44 (2) (br) of the
7 statutes; **relating to:** operating a motor vehicle without a valid driver’s license
8 or after suspension or revocation of an operating privilege and providing
9 penalties.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law prohibits a person from operating a motor vehicle on a highway during any period in which the person’s motor vehicle operating privilege is suspended (operating while suspended or OWS) or revoked (operating after revocation or OAR) or, with limited exceptions, if the person does not possess a valid operator’s license (operating without a license or OWL).

Under current law, a person convicted of OWS must forfeit not less than \$50 nor more than \$200. In addition, a person convicted of “knowing” OWS may be required

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to forfeit not more than \$200. A person convicted of OAR must forfeit not more than \$2,500 unless the underlying operating privilege revocation was the result of specified traffic violations involving alcohol or controlled substances. A person convicted of OAR for whom the underlying operating privilege revocation was the result of specified traffic violations involving alcohol or controlled substances must be fined not more than \$2,500 or imprisoned for not more than one year or both. Also under current law, as created in 2005 Wisconsin Act 412, a person who, in the course of a "knowing" OWS violation or OAR violation, causes: 1) damage to the property of another must forfeit \$1,000; 2) injury to another person must forfeit \$5,000; or 3) great bodily harm or death to another person is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by a maximum fine of \$10,000 or a maximum term of imprisonment of nine months or both.

Under current law, with limited exceptions, a person convicted of OWL with respect to a motor vehicle that is not a commercial motor vehicle may be required to forfeit not more than \$200 for the first offense, may be fined not more than \$300 and imprisoned for not more than 30 days for the second offense occurring within three years, and may be fined not more than \$500 and imprisoned for not more than six months for the third or subsequent offense occurring within three years. Under one exception, if the OWL violation results from the person's operator's license being expired for not more than three months and the person has no prior OWL convictions, the person may be required to forfeit not more than \$100 for the OWL violation. Under another exception, as created in 2005 Wisconsin Act 412, if, in the course of operating the vehicle knowingly without a valid operator's license or knowingly with an operator's license that has been revoked, suspended, or canceled, the person causes: 1) damage to the property of another, the person must forfeit \$1,000; 2) injury to another person, the person must forfeit \$5,000; or 3) great bodily harm or death to another person, the person is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

This bill repeals "knowing" OWS as a separate and distinct violation and repeals all other provisions of 2005 Wisconsin Act 412. The bill creates new penalties for OWS, OAR, and OWL violations in which the person, in the course of the violation, causes great bodily harm or death to another person.

Under the bill, a person convicted of OWL or OWS who, in the course of the violation, causes great bodily harm to another person: 1) must forfeit not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$7,500 if, at the time of the violation, the person did not know, respectively, that he or she did not possess a valid operator's license or that his or her operating privilege was suspended; or 2) is guilty of a Class I felony if the person knew. A Class I felony is punishable by a maximum fine of \$10,000 or a maximum term of imprisonment of three and one-half years or both. If the person causes the death of another in the course of the OWL or OWS violation, the person: 1) must forfeit not less than \$7,500 nor more than \$10,000 if the person did not know, respectively, that he or she did not possess a valid operator's license or that his or her operating privilege was suspended; or 2) is guilty of a Class H felony if the person knew. A Class H felony is punishable by a maximum fine of \$10,000 or a maximum term of imprisonment of six years or both. A person convicted of OAR who, in the course of the violation, causes great bodily harm to another person: 1) must be fined

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not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$7,500 or imprisoned for not more than one year or both if, at the time of the violation, the person did not know that his or her operating privilege was revoked; or 2) is guilty of a Class I felony if the person knew. If the person causes the death of another in the course of the OAR violation, the person: 1) must be fined not less than \$7,500 nor more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than one year or both if the person did not know that his or her operating privilege was revoked; or 2) is guilty of a Class H felony if the person knew.

Under current law, a court may suspend a person's operating privilege for any period not exceeding six months upon the person's conviction for OAR or OWS or operating a commercial motor vehicle during a period in which the person is disqualified (operating while disqualified or OWD). A court may revoke a person's operating privilege, for a period of six months or less, for a fourth or subsequent conviction for OAR, OWS, or OWD within a five-year period.

This bill requires a court to revoke a person's operating privilege if the person is convicted of OWL, OWS, or OAR and, in the course of the violation, the person causes great bodily harm or death to another person. The bill also provides that, as with OWS and OAR, the Department of Transportation may revoke a resident's operating privilege if the resident is convicted in another state for an OWL offense in the course of which the person causes great bodily harm or death to another person.

Under current law, a vehicle operator may not drive on or across a railroad crossing while any traffic officer or railroad employee signals to stop, while any warning device signals to stop, or, if any crossbuck sign is maintained at the crossing, while any train occupies or closely approaches the crossing. A vehicle operator may not drive through or around any crossing gate or barrier at a railroad crossing while the gate or barrier is closed or is being opened or closed. A court may revoke a person's operating privilege upon the person's first conviction of any of these violations and must revoke the person's operating privilege upon the person's second or subsequent conviction within a five-year period. The revocation is for six months.

This bill provides for suspension of a person's operating privilege, rather than revocation of the person's operating privilege, for any of these violations.

Because this bill creates a new crime or revises a penalty for an existing crime, the Joint Review Committee on Criminal Penalties may be requested to prepare a report concerning the proposed penalty and the costs or savings that are likely to result if the bill is enacted.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 343.05 (5) (a) of the statutes is renumbered 343.05 (5) (am).

2 **SECTION 2.** 343.05 (5) (ag) of the statutes is created to read:

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1 343.05 (5) (ag) In this subsection, “great bodily harm” has the meaning given
2 in s. 939.22 (14).

3 **SECTION 3.** 343.05 (5) (b) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

4 343.05 (5) (b) 1. Except as provided in ~~subd. subds. 2. or 3. to 5.~~ and sub. (6),
5 any person who violates sub. (3) (a) may be required to forfeit not more than \$200 for
6 the first offense, may be fined not more than \$300 and imprisoned for not more than
7 30 days for the 2nd offense occurring within 3 years, and may be fined not more than
8 \$500 and imprisoned for not more than 6 months for the 3rd or subsequent offense
9 occurring within 3 years. ~~A~~ In this paragraph, a violation of a local ordinance in
10 conformity with this section or a violation of a law of a federally recognized American
11 Indian tribe or band in this state in conformity with this section shall count as a
12 previous offense.

13 **SECTION 4.** 343.05 (5) (b) 3. of the statutes is repealed.

14 **SECTION 5.** 343.05 (5) (b) 4. and 5. of the statutes are created to read:

15 343.05 (5) (b) 4. Except as provided in subd. 2. and sub. (6), any person who
16 violates sub. (3) (a) and, in the course of the violation, causes great bodily harm to
17 another person is required to forfeit not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$7,500,
18 except that, if the person knows at the time of the violation that he or she does not
19 possess a valid operator’s license, the person is guilty of a Class I felony.

20 5. Except as provided in subd. 2. and sub. (6), any person who violates sub. (3)
21 (a) and, in the course of the violation, causes the death of another person is required
22 to forfeit not less than \$7,500 nor more than \$10,000, except that, if the person knows
23 at the time of the violation that he or she does not possess a valid operator’s license,
24 the person is guilty of a Class H felony.

25 **SECTION 6.** 343.30 (1d) of the statutes is created to read:

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1 343.30 (1d) A court shall revoke a person's operating privilege upon the
2 person's conviction for violating s. 343.05 (3) (a) or a local ordinance in conformity
3 therewith if the person, in the course of the violation, causes great bodily harm, as
4 defined in s. 939.22 (14), to another person or the death of another person. Any
5 revocation under this subsection shall be for a period of 6 months, unless the court
6 orders a period of revocation of less than 6 months and places its reasons for ordering
7 the lesser period of revocation on the record.

8 **SECTION 7.** 343.30 (1g) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

9 343.30 (1g) (a) ~~Except as provided in par. (b) and (c),~~ a court
10 may suspend a person's operating privilege for any period not exceeding 6 months
11 upon the person's conviction for violating s. 343.44 (1) (a), (b), or (d) or a local
12 ordinance in conformity therewith.

13 **SECTION 8.** 343.30 (1g) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

14 343.30 (1g) (b) ~~A~~ Except as provided in par. (c), a court may revoke a person's
15 operating privilege upon the person's conviction for violating s. 343.44 (1) (a), (b), or
16 (d) or a local ordinance in conformity therewith if the person has been convicted of
17 3 or more prior violations of s. 343.44 (1) (a), (b), or (d), or similar violations under
18 s. 343.44 (1), 1997 stats., or a local ordinance in conformity therewith, within the
19 5-year period preceding the violation.

20 (d) Any revocation under this ~~paragraph~~ subsection shall be for a period of 6
21 months, unless the court orders a period of revocation of less than 6 months and
22 places its reasons for ordering the lesser period of revocation on the record.

23 **SECTION 9.** 343.30 (1g) (c) of the statutes is created to read:

24 343.30 (1g) (c) A court shall revoke a person's operating privilege upon the
25 person's conviction for violating s. 343.44 (1) (a) or (b), or a local ordinance in

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1 conformity with s. 343.44 (1) (a), if the person, in the course of the violation, causes
2 great bodily harm, as defined in s. 939.22 (14), to another person or the death of
3 another person.

4 **SECTION 10.** 343.30 (2j) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

5 343.30 **(2j)** (a) A court may ~~revoke~~ suspend a person's operating privilege upon
6 the person's first conviction for violating s. 346.44 or 346.62 (2m) and shall ~~revoke~~
7 suspend a person's operating privilege upon the person's 2nd or subsequent
8 conviction within a 5-year period for violating s. 346.44 or 346.62 (2m). The
9 ~~revocation~~ suspension shall be for a period of 6 months. For purposes of determining
10 prior convictions for purposes of this paragraph, the 5-year period shall be measured
11 from the dates of the violations that resulted in the convictions. Each conviction
12 under s. 346.44 or 346.62 (2m) shall be counted, except that convictions under s.
13 346.44 and 346.62 (2m) arising out of the same incident or occurrence shall be
14 counted as a single conviction.

15 **SECTION 11.** 343.31 (2m) of the statutes is amended to read:

16 343.31 **(2m)** The department may suspend or revoke, respectively, the
17 operating privilege of any resident upon receiving notice of the conviction of that
18 person under a law of another jurisdiction or a federally recognized American Indian
19 tribe or band in this state for an offense which, if the person had committed the
20 offense in this state and been convicted of the offense under the laws of this state,
21 would have permitted suspension or revocation of the person's operating privilege
22 under s. 343.30 (1d) or (1g). Upon receiving similar notice with respect to a
23 nonresident, the department may suspend or revoke the privilege of the nonresident
24 to operate a motor vehicle in this state. The suspension or revocation shall not apply
25 to the operation of a commercial motor vehicle by a nonresident who holds a valid

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1 commercial driver license issued by another state. A suspension or revocation under
2 this subsection shall be for any period not exceeding 6 months.

3 **SECTION 12.** 343.44 (1) (am) of the statutes is repealed.

4 **SECTION 13.** 343.44 (2) (a) of the statutes is renumbered 343.44 (2) (ag) 1. and
5 amended to read:

6 343.44 (2) (ag) 1. Any Except as provided in subs. 2. and 3., any person who
7 violates sub. (1) (a) ~~or a local ordinance in conformity therewith~~ shall be required to
8 forfeit not less than \$50 nor more than \$200.

9 **SECTION 14.** 343.44 (2) (ad) of the statutes is created to read:

10 343.44 (2) (ad) In this subsection, "great bodily harm" has the meaning given
11 in s. 939.22 (14).

12 **SECTION 15.** 343.44 (2) (ag) 2. and 3. of the statutes are created to read:

13 343.44 (2) (ag) 2. Any person who violates sub. (1) (a) and, in the course of the
14 violation, causes great bodily harm to another person is required to forfeit not less
15 than \$5,000 nor more than \$7,500, except that, if the person knows at the time of the
16 violation that his or her operating privilege has been suspended, the person is guilty
17 of a Class I felony.

18 3. Any person who violates sub. (1) (a) and, in the course of the violation, causes
19 the death of another person is required to forfeit not less than \$7,500 nor more than
20 \$10,000, except that, if the person knows at the time of the violation that his or her
21 operating privilege has been suspended, the person is guilty of a Class H felony.

22 **SECTION 16.** 343.44 (2) (am) of the statutes is repealed.

23 **SECTION 17.** 343.44 (2) (ar) 3. and 4. of the statutes are created to read:

24 343.44 (2) (ar) 3. Any person who violates sub. (1) (b) and, in the course of the
25 violation, causes great bodily harm to another person shall be fined not less than

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1 \$5,000 nor more than \$7,500 or imprisoned for not more than one year in the county
2 jail or both, except that, if the person knows at the time of the violation that his or
3 her operating privilege has been revoked, the person is guilty of a Class I felony.

4 4. Any person who violates sub. (1) (b) and, in the course of the violation, causes
5 the death of another person shall be fined not less than \$7,500 nor more than \$10,000
6 or imprisoned for not more than one year in the county jail or both, except that, if the
7 person knows at the time of the violation that his or her operating privilege has been
8 revoked, the person is guilty of a Class H felony.

9 **SECTION 18.** 343.44 (2) (as) of the statutes is renumbered 343.44 (2) (ar) 1. and
10 amended to read:

11 343.44 (2) (ar) 1. Any Except as provided in subds. 2. to 4., any person who
12 violates sub. (1) (b) after July 27, 2005, shall forfeit not more than \$2,500, except that,

13 2. Except as provided in subds. 3. and 4., any person who violates sub. (1) (b)
14 shall be fined not more than \$2,500 or imprisoned for not more than one year in the
15 county jail or both if the revocation identified under sub. (1) (b) resulted from an
16 offense that may be counted under s. 343.307 (2), ~~the penalty under par. (b) shall~~
17 ~~apply.~~

18 **SECTION 19.** 343.44 (2) (b) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

19 343.44 (2) (b) (intro.) ~~Except as provided in pars. (am) and (as), any person who~~
20 ~~violates sub. (1) (b) or (d) shall be fined not more than \$2,500 or imprisoned for not~~
21 ~~more than one year in the county jail or both.~~ In imposing a sentence under this
22 ~~paragraph, or a local ordinance in conformity with this paragraph, par. (ar) or (br),~~
23 the court shall review the record and consider the following:

24 **SECTION 20.** 343.44 (2) (br) of the statutes is created to read:

