

State of Misconsin 2011 - 2012 LEGISLATURE



2011 SENATE BILL 483

February 15, 2012 – Introduced by Senators Holperin, Jauch, Schultz, Taylor, Lassa, C. Larson and Wirch, cosponsored by Representatives Milroy, Ballweg, A. Ott, Spanbauer, Ringhand and Rivard. Referred to Committee on Transportation and Elections.

- 1 AN ACT to amend 86.19 (1); and to create 86.19 (1g) of the statutes; relating
- to: informational highway signs identifying wild rivers and granting rule-making authority.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, with limited exceptions, a sign may not be placed within the limits of a highway except as necessary to guide or warn traffic and the authority charged with the maintenance of the highway must remove and dispose of signs placed in violation of this restriction.

Also under current law, the Department of Transportation (DOT) must adopt a manual establishing a uniform system of traffic control devices (MUTCD) for use on the highways of this state, which must be consistent with current nationally recognized standards for traffic control devices. Traffic control devices placed and maintained by local authorities must conform to the MUTCD as adopted by DOT.

Under this bill, any local authority charged with the maintenance of a highway that passes over a wild river may place within the limits of the highway informational signs identifying the wild river. These informational signs may be placed regardless of the provisions of the MUTCD, but DOT may by rule establish uniform standards for the appearance of these signs.

SENATE BILL 483

1

 $\mathbf{2}$

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

For further information see the *state and local* 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:

SECTION 1. 86.19 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

86.19 (1) Except as provided in sub. (1g) or (1m) or s. 84.01 (30) (g), no sign shall be placed within the limits of any street or highway except such as are necessary for the guidance or warning of traffic or as provided by ss. 60.23 (17m) and 66.0429. The authorities charged with the maintenance of streets or highways shall cause the removal therefrom and the disposal of all other signs.

SECTION 2. 86.19 (1g) of the statutes is created to read:

86.19 (1g) Notwithstanding s. 349.065, any local authority charged with the maintenance of a street or highway that passes over a wild river designated under s. 30.26 may place within the limits of the street or highway informational signs identifying the wild river. The department may by rule establish uniform standards for the appearance of signs placed under this subsection.

Section 3. Initial applicability.

(1) This act first applies to signs placed on the effective date of this subsection.

15 (END)