



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF MEMORANDUM

Memo No. 2

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HIGHWAY WEIGHT LIMITS

FROM: Mark Patronsky and Don Salm, Senior Staff Attorneys

RE: Suggestions for Consideration by the Special Committee

DATE: November 3, 2006

This memorandum contains a brief summary of the suggestions that were made related to highway weight limits at the September 22, 2006 meeting of the Special Committee. The suggestions listed in this memorandum are taken from testimony in the public hearing portion of the September 22 meeting, from invited speakers at the meeting, and from Special Committee members.

It is likely that further suggestions will be made in the course of the ongoing committee discussion of these issues. If necessary, further issues can be added to the summary in this memorandum. Also, if the Special Committee identifies issues in this memorandum for further consideration, the staff of the Special Committee can draft proposed legislation for discussion by the Special Committee.

ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

- Provide for enhanced enforcement of highway weight limits, such as by hiring more state troopers.
- Identify appropriate circumstances for the exercise of enforcement discretion, that is, when a law enforcement officer determines whether or not to issue an overweight citation.
- Authorize the issuance of overweight citations based on records kept by private businesses of the weight of trucks ("paper enforcement").
- Enhance the capacity of local law enforcement agencies to issue overweight citations, such as by increasing the level of training by local law enforcement officials or by providing resources (primarily funding) for additional local enforcement.

HIGHWAY WEIGHT LIMIT ISSUES

- Extend the “Michigan exception” in the current statutes [s. 348.29 (9), Stats.] so that trucks eligible for this exemption can proceed to either Superior or Park Falls.
- Create a definition of “intermediary lumber” as part of the definition of “raw forest products” that was created in 2005 Wisconsin Act 167 [see s. 348.01 (2) (bt), Stats.].
- Modify the axle spacing requirements under 2005 Wisconsin Act 167 to comply with the federal bridge formula.
- Allow trucks carrying ready mixed concrete to operate at 80,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rather than 73,000 pounds.
- Address Wisconsin weight limits to assure the greatest possible consistency with other states.
- Assure that agricultural equipment with flotation tires can comply with highway weight limits.

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION ISSUES

- Increase state road aids to make sure that roads for new property development (e.g., subdivisions) are constructed sufficiently well to allow for the truck traffic necessary to provide services to the new development.
- Address issues of bridges in rural areas with short-term, simple solutions to damage.

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