CHAPTER 175

MISCELLANEOUS POLICE PROVISIONS

175.05 Sabotage. (1) Definitions. As used in this section:

(a) “Highway” includes any private or public street, way or other place used for travel to or from property.

(b) “Highway commissioners” mean any individuals, board or other body having authority under then existing law to discontinue the use of the highway which it is desired to restrict or close to public use and travel.

(c) “Peace officer” includes sheriffs, undersheriffs, deputy sheriffs, police officers, railroad police officers appointed under s. 192.47, constables, marshals, deputy marshals, and federal law enforcement officers.

(d) “Person” includes a firm, partnership, limited liability company, corporation or association.

(e) “Public utility” includes any pipe line, gas, electric, heat, water, oil, sewer, telecommunications, telegraph, radio, railroad, airplane, transportation, communication or other system, by whomsoever owned or operated for public use.

(2) UNLAWFUL ENTRY ON PROPERTY. (a) Any person or state or any political subdivision thereof engaged in, or preparing to engage in, the manufacture, transportation or storage of any product to be used in the preparation of the United States or of any of the states for defense or for war or in the prosecution of war by the United States or in the manufacture, transportation, distribution or storage of gas, oil, coal, electric or water, or any such person or governmental unit operating any public utility, who has property so used which that person or governmental unit believes will be endangered if public use and travel is not restricted or prohibited on one or more highways or parts thereof upon which such property abuts, may petition the highway commissioners of any city, village, town or county to close one or more of said highways or parts thereof to public use and travel or to restrict by order the use and travel upon one or more of said highways or parts thereof.

(b) Upon receipt of such petition, the highway commissioners shall set a day for hearing and give notice thereof by publication of a class 1 notice, under ch. 985, in the city, village, town or county in which the property is located, such notice to be at least 7 days prior to the date set for hearing. If after hearing the highway commissioners determine that the public safety and the safety of the property of the petitioner so require, they shall by suitable order close to public use and travel or reasonably restrict the use of and travel upon one or more of the highways or parts thereof, except that the highway commissioners may issue written permits to travel over the highways so closed or restricted to responsible and reputable persons for such term, under such conditions and in such form as the commissioners may prescribe. The order of the highway commissioners closing or restricting the use of one or more of the highways shall be effective only so long as the public necessity which prompted it has ceased to exist.

(3) QUESTIONING AND DETAINING SUSPECTED PERSONS. Any peace officer or any person employed as security person, guard, or in a supervisory capacity on premises posted as provided in sub. (2) may stop any person found on any premises to which entry without permission is forbidden by said subsection and may detain that person and demand that person’s name, address and business in such place. If the peace officer or employee has reason to believe from the answers of the person so interrogated that that person has no right to be in that place, the peace officer or employee shall forthwith release or arrest that person without a warrant on a charge of violating the provisions of sub. (2) and an employee in case of arrest shall forthwith turn the arrested person over to a peace officer.
be given to the person bringing the petition for review and the clerk of the local highway commissioners.

(c) Appropriate notices in letters at least 3 inches high shall be posted conspicuously at each end of any highway so closed or restricted by such order. The highway commissioners may at any time revoke or modify any order so made.

(5) **Penalty for going upon closed or restricted highway.** Whoever violates any order made under sub. (4) shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 10 days, or by a fine of not more than $50, or both.

(6) **Rights of labor.** Nothing in this section shall be construed to impair, curtail or destroy the rights of employees and their representatives to self-organization, to form, join or assist labor organization, to strike, to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and to engage in concerted activities, for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection, under either the federal labor relations act or subch. I of ch. 111.

(7) **National Railway Labor Act not affected.** Nothing in this section shall be deemed to be construed to interfere with or abridge or in any manner diminish or affect the rights provided for under the National Railway Labor Act.

**History:** 1977 c. 29 s. 1654 (8) (e); 1979 c. 89; 1981 c. 347 s. 80 (2); 1983 a. 189; 1985 a. 135; 1985 a. 297 s. 76; 1993 a. 16, 112, 482, 490, 2015 a. 1.

175.09 **Standard time.** (1) The standard of time in this state shall be the solar time of the ninetyeth meridian west of Greenwich, commonly known as central time, and no department of the state government, and no county, city, town or village shall employ any other time, or adopt any ordinance or order providing for the use of any other than the standard of time.

(2) No person operating or maintaining a place of business of whatsoever kind or nature, shall employ, display or maintain or use any other than the standard of time in connection with such place of business.

(3) Whoever shall in connection with any place of business use any other than the standard of time shall be fined not less than $25 nor more than $500 nor imprisoned for not less than 10 days nor more than 30 days or both.

**History:** 1997 a. 254.

175.095 **Daylight saving time.** (1) Notwithstanding s. 175.09 (1), the standard of time shall be as provided in sub. (2) during the period stated therein.

(2) From 2 a.m. on the 2nd Sunday in March until 2 a.m. on the first Sunday in November of each year, the standard of time in this state shall be one hour in advance of that prescribed in s. 175.09 (1).

**History:** 1987 a. 8; 2007 a. 3.

175.10 **Sale to employees prohibited.** (1) Except as provided in sub. (1m), no department or agency of the state or any political subdivision thereof, or member or officer of any village, town, or county board or common council of any city, or any purchasing agent or purchasing agency of the state or any political subdivision thereof, shall sell or procure for sale or have in its possession or under its control for sale to any employees of the state or any political subdivision thereof any article, material, product, or merchandise of whatsoever nature, excepting meals, public services, and such specialized appliances and paraphernalia as may be required for the safety or health of the employees.

(1m) (a) The prohibition under sub. (1) does not apply to a sale if any of the following applies:

1. The sale is of a surplus or discarded item that is no longer needed if the item is available for sale to the public using a publicly available method.
2. The sale is of an item that is regularly available from the governmental entity for sale to the public at the same cost.

(b) On its Internet site, the department of administration shall post a list of auction or sale Internet sites for compliance with par. (a) 1. The department may limit the types of items that may be sold on any particular Internet site.

(c) A political subdivision may enact an ordinance that prohibits a sale that is otherwise permitted under par. (a).

(2) Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than $100 nor more than $500 or by imprisonment in the county jail not less than 30 days nor more than 90 days, or both.

(3) The provisions of this section shall not apply to this state, nor to any political subdivision thereof, nor to any department, agency, officer or employee of any of them while engaged in any recreational, health, welfare, relief, safety, or educational activities furnished by this state or any political subdivision thereof.

**History:** 1979 c. 89; 1981 c. 347 s. 80 (2); 1983 a. 189; 1985 a. 135; 1985 a. 297 s. 76; 1993 a. 16, 112, 482, 490, 2015 a. 1.

175.15 **Endurance contests; penalty.** (1) No person, firm or corporation shall advertise, operate, maintain, attend, participate in, promote or aid in advertising, operating, maintaining or promoting any physical endurance contest, exhibition, performance, or show in the nature of a “marathon,” “walkathon,” “skatathon” or any other physical endurance contest, exhibition, performance or show of a like or similar nature, whether or not an admission is charged or a prize is awarded to any person for participation in such physical endurance contest, wherein any person participates in such contest for a period of more than 16 hours in any 24 hours over a period of more than 6 days in one month.

(2) Any person attending any contest, exhibition, performance or show enumerated in sub. (1) shall be punished by a fine of not less than $5 nor more than $25 or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 10 days or by both such fine and imprisonment.

(3) Except as provided in sub. (2) any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of sub. (1) shall be punished by a fine of not less than $100 nor more than $500, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than 10 days nor more than one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment. Each day for which any of the provisions of said sub. (1) is violated shall constitute a separate offense.

(4) The place, buildings and premises where any of the illegal exhibitions or contests mentioned in sub. (1) hereof are hereafter conducted, maintained, had or held are hereby declared to be and constitute a public nuisance, and it is hereby the duty of the attorney general and district attorney to take proper action to abate the same.

(5) Section 945.01 (4) (c) shall also apply to this section.

(6) Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to apply to or prohibit roller skating or bicycle contests or races which are not intended to and which do not continue for or have a duration of more than 150 hours.

175.20 **Amusement places, license, regulation.** (1) No person may conduct any dance to which the public is admitted, or conduct, establish or manage any public dance hall or pavilion, amusement park, carnival, concert, street fair, bathing beach or other like place of amusement in any county in which the board of supervisors has enacted an ordinance, adopted a resolution or enacted bylaws in accordance with the provisions of s. 59.56 (12) (b) or (br), subject to s. 59.56 (12m), without first securing a license as provided in s. 59.56 (12) (b) or (br) or 60.23 (10). No person required to have such a license may conduct a dance to which the public is admitted except in the presence and under the supervision of a county dance supervisor.

(3) Any person who violates any of the provisions of this section may be fined not more than $10,000 or may be imprisoned for
175.22 Policy on privacy in locker rooms. (1) In this section:
(a) “Person” includes the state.
(b) “Recording device” means a camera, a video recorder, or any other device that may be used to record or transfer images.
(2) Any person that owns or operates a locker room in this state shall adopt a written policy that does all of the following:
(a) Specifies who may enter and remain in the locker room to interview or seek information from any individual in the locker room.
(b) Specifies the recording devices that may be used in the locker room and the circumstances under which they may be used.
(c) Reflects the privacy interests of individuals who use the locker room.
(d) Specifies that no person may use a cell phone to capture, record, or transfer a representation of a nude or partially nude person in the locker room.
History: 2007 a. 118.

175.25 Storage of junked automobiles. (1) No person, firm, partnership or corporation shall accumulate or store any junked automobiles or parts thereof outside of any building on any real estate located within the corporate limits of any city, village or town except upon a permit issued by the common council or village or town board.
(2) No accumulation or storage of such material shall be allowed within 2,000 feet outside of the corporate limits of a city or village or within 750 feet of the center line of any county trunk, state trunk or federal highway or within 500 feet of the center line of any town road, except upon a permit issued by permission of the town board.
(3) The permit issued by city council, village or town board shall be signed either by the mayor or president or chairperson as the case may be and clerk thereof and shall specify the quantity and manner of storing such junk. Such permit shall be revocable at any time by such council or board after a hearing at which it has been found that the permit holder has failed or refused to comply with the ordinances or restrictions providing regulations for the storage of such junked automobiles or parts thereof. Such hearing may be held by the common council of any city or the board of any town or village upon its own motion, or upon the complaint in writing, duly signed and verified by a complainant. Such complaint shall state the nature of the alleged failure to comply with such ordinance or regulation. A copy of the complaint together with a notice of the hearing shall be served upon the permit holder not less than 10 days prior to the date of hearing.
(4) Any person, firm, partnership or corporation now engaged in the business of accumulating or storing and leaving accumulated or stored junked automobiles, or parts thereof, outside of any building on real estate within the corporate limits of any city or village, or within 2,000 feet outside the corporate limits of a city or village, or within 750 feet of the center line of any state trunk or federal highway in any town on August 19, 1939 may, at any time within 6 months after such date, upon application therefor to the governing body of such town, city or village upon showing such facts, be granted a permit for such place of accumulation or storage; any person, firm, partnership or corporation succeeding a business now engaged in the accumulating or storage and leaving accumulated and stored junked automobiles, or parts thereof, outside of any building on real estate as hereinbefore provided may likewise be granted such permit.
(5) Any person, firm, partnership or corporation violating any of the provisions hereof shall upon conviction be fined not less than $10, nor more than $50 for each offense, and in default of payment of said fine shall be imprisoned in the county jail for a period not exceeding 30 days. Each day that junk, as herein defined, shall be stored contrary to the provisions hereof shall constitute a separate and distinct offense.
History: 1971 c. 128; 1993 a. 184, 246.

175.30 Purchase of firearms in other states permitted. A resident of this state or a corporation or other business entity maintaining a place of business in this state may purchase or otherwise obtain a rifle or shotgun in a state other than this state if the transfer complies with federal law and the laws of both states.

175.32 School violence. (1) In this section:
(a) “Law enforcement agency” has the meaning given in s. 165.77 (1) (b) and includes a tribal law enforcement agency, as defined in s. 165.83 (1) (c).
(b) “Member of the clergy” has the meaning given in s. 48.981 (1) (ex).
(c) “School” means a public, private, or tribal elementary or secondary school.
(2) (a) Any person listed under s. 48.981 (2) (a) shall report as provided in sub. (3) if the person believes in good faith, based on a threat made by an individual seen in the course of professional duties regarding violence in or targeted at a school, that there is a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a student or school employee or the public.
(b) A court–appointed special advocate under s. 48.986 shall report as provided under sub. (3) if he or she believes in good faith, based on a threat made by a child seen in the course of activities under s. 48.236 (3) regarding violence in or targeted at a school, that there is a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a student or school employee or the public.
(c) 1. Except as provided in subd. 2., a member of the clergy shall report as provided in sub. (3) if the member of the clergy believes in good faith, based on a threat of violence in or targeted at a school made by an individual seen in the course of professional duties, that there is a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a student or school employee or the public.
  2. A member of the clergy is not required to report a threat of violence that he or she receives solely through confidential communications made to him or her privately or in a confessional setting if he or she is authorized to hear or is accustomed to hearing such communications and, under the disciplines, tenets, or traditions of his or her religion, has a duty or is expected to keep those communications secret. Those disciplines, tenets, or traditions need not be in writing.
(3) A person required to report under sub. (2) shall immediately inform, by telephone or personally, a law enforcement agency of the facts and circumstances contributing to the belief that there is a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a student or school employee or the public.
(4) Any person or institution participating in good faith in the making of a report under this section shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, that results by reason of the action. Any health care provider, as defined in s. 146.81 (1), who believes in good faith and in his or her professional judgment that a report is not required under this section shall have immunity from any civil liability or criminal penalty for not making such a report. For the purpose of any proceeding, civil or criminal, the good faith of any person reporting under this section shall be presumed.
(5) Whoever intentionally violates this section by failure to report as required may be fined not more than $1,000 or imprisoned not more than 6 months or both.
History: 2017 a. 143.

175.35 Purchase of handguns. (1) In this section:
(a) “Criminal history record” includes information reported to the department under s. 938.396 (2g) (n) that indicates a person was adjudicated delinquent for an act that if committed by an adult in this state would be a felony.
(ar) “Firearms dealer” means any person engaged in the business of importing, manufacturing or dealing in firearms and having a license as an importer, manufacturer or dealer issued by the federal government.

(a) “Firearms restrictions record search” means a search of department of justice records to determine whether a person seeking to purchase a handgun is prohibited from possessing a firearm under s. 941.29. “Firearms restrictions record search” includes a criminal history record search, a search to determine whether a person is prohibited from possessing a firearm under s. 51.20 (13) (cv) 1. 2007 stats., a search in the national instant criminal background check system to determine whether a person has been ordered not to possess a firearm under s. 51.20 (13) (cv) 1., 51.45 (13) (f) 1., 54.10 (3) (f) 1., or 55.12 (10) (a), a search to determine whether the person is subject to an injunction under s. 813.12 or 813.122, or a tribal injunction, as defined in s. 813.12 (1) (e), issued by a court established by any federally recognized Wisconsin Indian tribe or band, except the Menominee Indian tribe of Wisconsin, that includes notice to the respondent that he or she is subject to the requirements and penalties under s. 941.29 and that has been filed with the circuit court under s. 131.28 (3g), and a search to determine whether the person is prohibited from possessing a firearm under s. 813.123 (5m) or 813.125 (4m).

(b) “Handgun” means any weapon designed or redesigned, or made or remade, and intended to be fired while held in one hand and to use the energy of an explosive to expel a projectile through a smooth or rifled bore.

(c) “Working day” means each day except Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday under s. 995.20.

(2) When a firearms dealer sells a handgun, he or she may not transfer possession of that handgun to any other person until all of the following have occurred:

(a) The transferee has provided identification as required by rule under sub. (2g) (a).

(b) The transferee has completed the notification form described in sub. (2g) (b).

(c) The firearms dealer has conveyed the information from the completed notification form to the department of justice as required by rule under sub. (2g) (b) and requested a firearms restrictions record search.

(d) The firearms dealer has received an approval number regarding the firearms restrictions record search under sub. (2g) (c) from the department of justice.

(2e) When a transferee completes the notification form described in sub. (2g) (b), the transferee shall provide truthful information.

(2f) When a firearms dealer requests that the department of justice provide a firearms restrictions record search under sub. (2g), he or she shall provide truthful information about his or her status as a firearms dealer and shall provide an accurate firearms dealer identification number obtained under sub. (2h). A person may request that the department provide a firearms restrictions record search under sub. (2g) only if he or she is a firearms dealer.

(2g) (a) The department of justice shall promulgate rules prescribing procedures for a transferee to provide and a firearms dealer to inspect identification containing a photograph of the transferee.

(b) 1. The department of justice shall promulgate rules prescribing a notification form for use under sub. (2) requiring the transferee to provide his or her name, date of birth, gender, race and social security number and other identification necessary to permit an accurate firearms restrictions record search under par. (c) 3. and the required notification under par. (c) 4. The department of justice shall make the forms available at locations throughout the state.

2. The department of justice shall ensure that each notification form under subd. 1. requires the transferee to indicate that he or she is not purchasing the firearm with the purpose or intent to transfer the firearm to a person who is prohibited from possessing a firearm under state or federal law and that each notification form informs the transferee that making a false statement with regard to this purpose or intent is a Class H felony.

(c) The department of justice shall promulgate rules for firearms restrictions record searches regarding transferees under sub. (2), including procedures for all of the following:

1. A firearms dealer to convey the information from a completed notification form to the department using either a toll-free telephone number provided by the department or an alternative means the department provides.

2. The department to provide the firearms dealer with a confirmation number confirming the receipt of the information under subd. 1.

3. The department to conduct the firearms restrictions record search regarding the transferee. The rules shall include, but not be limited to, a requirement that the department use the transaction information for management of enforcement system and the national crime information center system.

4. The department to notify the dealer as soon after receiving the information under subd. 1. as practicable, of the results of the firearms restrictions record search as follows:

a. If the search indicates that the transferee is prohibited from possessing a firearm under s. 941.29, the department shall provide the firearms dealer with a unique nonapproval number. The department may not disclose to the firearms dealer the reason the transferee is prohibited from possessing a firearm under s. 941.29.

b. If the search indicates that the transferee is not prohibited from possessing a firearm under s. 941.29, the department shall provide the firearms dealer with a unique approval number.

c. If the search indicates that it is unclear whether the person is prohibited under state or federal law from possessing a firearm and the department needs more time to make the determination, the department shall make every reasonable effort to determine whether the person is prohibited under state or federal law from possessing a firearm and notify the firearms dealer of the results as soon as practicable but no later than 5 working days after the search was requested.

(d) 1. The department of justice shall promulgate rules to convey information in a timely manner to the national instant criminal background check system regarding individuals ordered not to possess a firearm under s. 51.20 (13) (cv) 1., 51.45 (13) (i) 1., 54.10 (3) (f) 1., or 55.12 (10) (a).

2. The department of justice shall promulgate rules to convey information in a timely manner to the national instant criminal background check system regarding the cancellation of an order under s. 51.20 (13) (cv) 1m. c., 51.45 (13) (i) 2. c., 54.10 (3) (f) 2. c., or 55.12 (10) (b) 3. of an order not to possess a firearm.

(2h) Upon the request of any firearms dealer, the department of justice shall provide that firearms dealer with a unique firearms dealer identification number for use under this section.

(2i) The department shall charge a firearms dealer a $10 fee for each firearms restrictions record search that the firearms dealer requests under sub. (2) (c). The firearms dealer may collect the fee from the transferee. The department may refuse to conduct firearms restrictions record searches for any firearms dealer who fails to pay any fee under this subsection within 30 days after billing by the department.

(2j) A firearms dealer shall maintain the original record of all completed notification forms and a record of all confirmation numbers and corresponding approval or nonapproval numbers that he or she receives regarding firearms restrictions record searches under sub. (2g). If, under sub. (2g) (c) 1., the firearms dealer conveys the information from the notification form using the toll-free telephone number, the firearms dealer shall mail the duplicate copy of each completed notification form to the department of justice. If, under sub. (2g) (c) 1., the firearms dealer conveys the information from the notification form using the alternative means, the firearms dealer shall transmit, using a means the
department approves, each completed notification form to the department of justice.

2k (ag) In this subsection:
1. “Law enforcement agency of a physically adjacent state” has the meaning given in s. 175.46 (1) (b).
2. “Wisconsin law enforcement agency” means a governmental unit of one or more persons employed by this state or a political subdivision of this state for the purpose of preventing and detecting crime and enforcing state laws or local ordinances, employees of which unit are authorized to make arrests for crimes while acting within the scope of their authority.

(a) Except as provided in pars. (b) to (j) and as necessary to administer this section, the department of justice shall do all of the following:
1. Deny access to any record kept under this section.
2. Check each notification form received under sub. (2j) against the information recorded by the department regarding the corresponding request for a firearms restrictions record search under sub. (2g). If the department previously provided a unique approval number regarding the request and nothing in the completed notification form indicates that the transferee is prohibited from possessing a firearm under s. 941.29, the department shall destroy all records regarding that firearms restrictions record search within 30 days after receiving the notification form.

(b) Notwithstanding par. (ar), the department of justice may maintain all of the following:
1. Records necessary to comply with federal law.
2. a. Except as provided in subd. 2. b., a log of dates of requests for firearms restrictions record searches under sub. (2g) together with confirmation numbers, unique approval and nonapproval numbers and firearms dealer identification numbers corresponding to those dates.
   b. Within 3 years after the department issues a unique approval number, the department shall destroy all corresponding information contained in the log under subd. 2. a.
3. Records necessary to administer this section.
(c) Notwithstanding par. (ar), the department of justice shall provide access to any record under this section under all of the following circumstances:
1. The department of justice receives a record request that is submitted in writing by a Wisconsin law enforcement agency.
2. The request submitted under subd. 1. appears on the Wisconsin law enforcement agency’s letterhead and contains all of the following:
   a. A statement that the Wisconsin law enforcement agency is conducting an investigation of a crime in which a handgun was used or was attempted to be used or was unlawfully possessed.
   b. A statement by a division commander or higher authority within the Wisconsin law enforcement agency that he or she has a reasonable suspicion that the person who is the subject of the information request has obtained or is attempting to obtain a handgun.
3. The signature of a division commander or higher authority within the Wisconsin law enforcement agency.
(d) Whenever a Wisconsin law enforcement agency makes a request for information under par. (c), the agency shall report to the subject of the information request the fact that a request has been made and the name of the Wisconsin law enforcement agency that made the request. The agency shall make the report whenever the earliest of the following occurs:
1. The person who is the subject of the information request under par. (c) 2. b. is no longer material to the investigation conducted under par. (c) 2. a.
2. The Wisconsin law enforcement agency has completed its investigation under par. (c) 2. a.
3. One year after the date that the Wisconsin law enforcement agency made the request under par. (c).
(e) A Wisconsin law enforcement agency may disclose information that is provided by the department of justice under par. (c) to another law enforcement agency. If there is a request for information from a requester other than a law enforcement agency, the Wisconsin law enforcement agency shall not disclose information to the requester that is provided by the department of justice under par. (c). If there is a request by a requester other than a law enforcement agency to copy or inspect any record of the Wisconsin law enforcement agency that contains that information, the agency, acting under sub. 19.36 (6), shall delete any portion of the record that relates to that information before release.
(f) A Wisconsin law enforcement agency that is provided access to a record under par. (c) shall destroy all corresponding information contained in the record when the earliest of the following occurs:
1. The person who is the subject of the information request under par. (c) 2. b. is no longer material to the investigation conducted under par. (c) 2. a.
2. The Wisconsin law enforcement agency has completed its investigation under par. (c) 2. a.
3. One year after the date the Wisconsin law enforcement agency made the request under par. (c).
(g) If a search conducted under sub. (2g) indicates that the transferee is prohibited from possessing a firearm under s. 941.29, the attorney general or his or her designee may disclose to a law enforcement agency that the transferee has attempted to obtain a handgun.
(h) If a search conducted under sub. (2g) indicates a felony charge without a recorded disposition and the attorney general or his or her designee has reasonable grounds to believe the transferee may pose a danger to himself, herself or another, the attorney general or his or her designee may disclose to a law enforcement agency that the transferee has obtained or has attempted to obtain a handgun.
(i) If a law enforcement agency of a physically adjacent state makes a request under par. (c), the department shall comply with the request under all of the following circumstances:
1. The law enforcement agency of the physically adjacent state agrees to comply with all the requirements under this subsection.
2. The physically adjacent state allows Wisconsin law enforcement agencies similar or greater access to similar information from that physically adjacent state.
(j) If a law enforcement agency of a physically adjacent state makes a request under par. (c), the department shall comply with the request under all of the following circumstances:
1. The law enforcement agency of the physically adjacent state agrees to comply with all the requirements under this subsection.
2. The physically adjacent state allows Wisconsin law enforcement agencies similar or greater access to similar information from that physically adjacent state.
(j) If a law enforcement agency of a physically adjacent state makes a request under par. (c), the department shall comply with the request under all of the following circumstances:
1. The law enforcement agency of the physically adjacent state agrees to comply with all the requirements under this subsection.
2. The physically adjacent state allows Wisconsin law enforcement agencies similar or greater access to similar information from that physically adjacent state.
(j) If a law enforcement agency of a physically adjacent state makes a request under par. (c), the department shall comply with the request under all of the following circumstances:
1. The law enforcement agency of the physically adjacent state agrees to comply with all the requirements under this subsection.
2. The physically adjacent state allows Wisconsin law enforcement agencies similar or greater access to similar information from that physically adjacent state.

firearm with the purpose or intent to transfer the firearm to another who the person knows or reasonably should know is prohibited from possessing a firearm under state or federal law is guilty of a Class H felony. The penalty shall include a fine that is not less than $500.

(4) The department of justice or the district attorney may institute, manage, control, and direct, in the proper county, a prosecution for a violation of sub. (2e) that is punishable under sub. (3) (b) 2. When prosecuting such a violation, the department of justice shall have and exercise all powers conferred upon district attorneys.


Cross-reference: See also ch. Jus 10, Wis. adm. code.

175.37 Warning whenever transferring a firearm. (1) Upon the retail commercial sale or retail commercial transfer of any firearm, the seller or transfereor shall provide to the buyer or transferee the following written warning in block letters not less than $500 or imprisoned for not more than 30 days or both.

(2) Any person who violates sub. (1) may be fined not more than $500 or imprisoned for not more than 30 days or both.

History: 1991 a. 139.

175.38 Enforcement of video gambling law. (1) In this section, “law enforcement officer” has the meaning given in s. 165.85 (2) (c) but does not include a special agent of the department of revenue.

(2) Notwithstanding s. 945.041, no law enforcement officer may investigate violations of or otherwise enforce s. 945.03 (2m) or 945.04 (2m).

(3) No law enforcement officer may investigate violations of or otherwise enforce s. 945.05 (1m) unless he or she reasonably believes that the video gambling machine involved may be used in connection with a violation of ch. 945 other than a violation of s. 945.03 (2m) or 945.04 (2m).

History: 2003 a. 33.

175.40 Arrests; assistance. (1) In this section:

(a) “Highway” has the meaning specified in s. 340.01 (22).

(b) “Intersection” has the meaning specified in s. 340.01 (25).

(bn) “Law enforcement officer” has the meaning specified in s. 165.85 (2) (c).

(c) “Peace officer” has the meaning specified in s. 939.22 (22), but does not include a commission warden, as defined in s. 939.22 (5). “Peace officer” includes any tribal law enforcement officer who is empowered to act under s. 165.92 (2) (a).

(2) For purposes of civil and criminal liability, any peace officer may, when in fresh pursuit, follow anywhere in the state and arrest any person for the violation of any law or ordinance the officer is authorized to enforce.

(3) For purposes of civil and criminal liability, any peace officer outside his or her territorial jurisdiction acting under sub. (2) is considered to be acting in an official capacity while in fresh pursuit under sub. (2), making an arrest under sub. (2) or transporting a person arrested under sub. (2).

(4) A peace officer whose boundary is a highway may enforce any law or ordinance that he or she is otherwise authorized to enforce by arrest or issuance of a citation on the entire width of such a highway and on the entire intersection of such a highway and a highway located in an adjacent jurisdiction. This subsection does not extend an officer’s jurisdiction outside the boundaries of this state.

(5) (a) For any county having a population of 750,000 or more, if any law enforcement officer has territorial jurisdiction that is wholly or partially within that county and has authority to arrest a person within the officer’s territorial jurisdiction, the officer may arrest that person anywhere in the county.

(b) A law enforcement officer specified in par. (a) has the additional arrest authority under this subsection only if the officer’s law enforcement agency has adopted policies under par. (d) and the officer complies with those policies.

(c) A law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction where a person is arrested under par. (a) is immune from liability for the acts or omissions of any officer of a different law enforcement agency exercising authority under par. (a).

(d) In order to allow its officers to exercise authority under par. (a), a law enforcement agency for a municipality or county must adopt and implement written policies regarding the arrest authority under this subsection, including at least all of the following:

1. Investigations conducted in another jurisdiction.

2. Arrests made in another jurisdiction if the crime is observed by a law enforcement officer.

3. Arrests made in another jurisdiction if the crime is not observed by a law enforcement officer.

4. Notification to and cooperation with the law enforcement agency of another jurisdiction regarding investigations conducted and arrests made in the other jurisdiction.

(e) The authority under this subsection is in addition to any other arrest authority, including authority granted under any charter.

(6) (a) A peace officer outside of his or her territorial jurisdiction may arrest a person or provide aid or assistance anywhere in the state if the criteria under subs. 1. to 3. are met:

1. The officer is on duty and on official business.

2. The officer is taking action that he or she would be authorized to take under the same circumstances in his or her territorial jurisdiction.

3. The officer is acting to respond to any of the following:

a. An emergency situation that poses a significant threat to life or of bodily harm.

b. Acts that the officer believes, on reasonable grounds, constitute a felony.

(b) A peace officer specified in par. (a) has the additional arrest and other authority under this subsection only if the peace officer’s supervisory agency has adopted policies under par. (d) and the officer complies with those policies.

(c) For purposes of civil and criminal liability, any peace officer outside of his or her territorial jurisdiction acting under par. (a) is considered to be acting in an official capacity.

(d) In order to allow a peace officer to exercise authority under par. (a), the peace officer’s supervisory agency must adopt and implement written policies regarding the arrest and other authority under this subsection, including at least a policy on notification to and cooperation with the law enforcement agency of another jurisdiction regarding arrests made and other actions taken in the other jurisdiction.

(6m) (a) An off-duty peace officer may arrest a person or provide aid or assistance outside of his or her territorial jurisdiction but in the state if all of the following apply:

1. The officer is responding to an emergency situation that poses a significant threat to life or of bodily harm.

2. The officer is taking action that he or she would be authorized to take under the same circumstances in the officer’s territorial jurisdiction.

3. The officer’s supervising agency has adopted written policies authorizing off-duty officers to make arrests or provide aid or assistance outside of the agency’s territorial jurisdiction but in the state, and the policies at a minimum address all of the following:

a. Reasonable responses to an emergency situation under subd. 1.
b. Arrests made in response to an emergency situation under subd. 1.
c. Notification of and cooperation with a law enforcement agency of another jurisdiction regarding arrests made and other actions taken in the other jurisdiction.

4. The officer’s action is in compliance with the policies under subd. 3.

(b) A supervising agency may limit its officer’s authority to act under this subsection by including limitations in the written policies under par. (a) 3.

(c) 1. For purposes of civil and criminal liability and for purposes of s. 895.46, an off-duty peace officer acting outside the officer’s jurisdiction as authorized under this subsection is considered to be acting in an official capacity as an officer of the state, state employee, or agent of the state.

2. For purposes of worker’s compensation under ch. 102, an off-duty peace officer acting outside the officer’s territorial jurisdiction as authorized under this subsection is considered to be an employee of the state and the officer is eligible for the same benefits as if the officer had sustained the injury while performing services growing out of and incidental to the officer’s employment with the employing supervisory agency.

3. An off-duty peace officer acting outside the officer’s territorial jurisdiction as authorized under this subsection is considered to be performing his or her duty and engaging in his or her occupation.

4. By no later than 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter, the department of administration shall submit a report to the joint committee on finance detailing all moneys expended or encumbered from the appropriation account under s. 20.505 (2) (am) during that calendar quarter for costs and judgments under subd. 1. or 2.

(7) (a) In this subsection:

1. “Federal law enforcement officer” means a person employed full-time by the federal government who may make an arrest with or without a warrant for a violation of the U.S. Code and who may carry a firearm in the performance of the person’s duties.

2. “Wisconsin law enforcement agency” has the meaning given in s. 175.46 (1) (f).

3. “Wisconsin law enforcement officer” has the meaning given in s. 175.46 (1) (g).

(b) A federal law enforcement officer, while engaged in the performance of official duties, may do any of the following anywhere in the state:

1. Make an arrest for a violation of state law or render aid or assistance if the officer has reasonable grounds for believing that a felony has been or is being committed in his or her presence and has reasonable grounds for believing that the person to be arrested has committed the felony.

2. Render assistance to a Wisconsin law enforcement officer in an emergency or at the request of a Wisconsin law enforcement officer.

(c) A federal law enforcement officer acting under par. (b) has any immunity from liability or limit on liability to the same extent as a Wisconsin law enforcement officer.

(d) No federal law enforcement officer, acting solely under the authority under par. (b), may be considered, for liability purposes, as an employee or agent of this state or any Wisconsin law enforcement agency for his or her actions within this state. The federal law enforcement officer is considered as continuing to be an employee of the agency employing him or her.

(e) This subsection does not limit any authority to act that a federal law enforcement officer has under federal law.


A motorist, injured while fleeing police was, as matter of law, more negligent than pursuing officer. Brunette v. Employers Mut. Liability Ins. Co. 107 Wis. 2d 361, 320 N.W.2d 43 (Ct. App. 1982).

To determine whether an officer acts in “fresh pursuit” under sub. (2) three criteria are considered: 1) whether officer acted without unnecessary delay; 2) whether pursuit is continuous; and 3) whether the time periods were reasonable. City of Brookfield v. Collar, 148 Wis. 2d 839, 436 N.W.2d 911 (Ct. App. 1989).


In addition to issuing a citation for an observed violation, an officer, after observing a traffic violation and pursuing the defendant into another jurisdiction where the stop was made, was entitled to question the defendant beyond the purpose for which the stop was made and to issue citations for other violations when additional suspicious factors came to the officer’s attention during the stop. State v. Haynes, 2001 WI App 266, 248 Wis. 2d 724, 638 N.W.2d 82, 00–3083.

Suppression is not required when a police officer acts without authority outside his or her jurisdiction. Suppression is not required except when evidence is obtained in violation of a constitutional right or in violation of a statute providing suppression as a remedy. State v. Keith, 2003 WI App 47, 260 Wis. 2d 592, 659 N.W.2d 403, 02–4983.


175.403 Trespassing; arrest and removal. (1) In this section:

(a) “Law enforcement agency” has the meaning given in s. 165.83 (1) (b).

(b) “Law enforcement officer” has the meaning given in s. 165.85 (2) (c).

(2) By July 1, 2018, each law enforcement agency shall have a written policy regarding the investigation of complaints alleging a violation of s. 943.14. The policy shall require a law enforcement officer who has probable cause to arrest a person for a violation of s. 943.14 to remove the person from a dwelling.


175.41 Arrest and assistance; wardens employed by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. (1) In this section:

(a) “Ceded territory” means the territory in Wisconsin ceded by the Chippewas to the United States in the treaty of 1837, 7 Stat. 536, and the treaty of 1842, 7 Stat. 591.

(b) “Commission” means the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission.

(c) “Commission warden” means a conservation warden employed by the commission.

(2) For purposes of civil and criminal liability, a commission warden may, when in fresh pursuit, follow anywhere in the state outside the ceded territory and arrest any of the following:

(a) A Chippewa tribal member for violation of the Chippewa off-reservation conservation code, if the conditions of sub. (3) (a) and (e) are met.

(b) Any person for violation of the laws of this state, if the conditions of sub. (3) (a) to (e) are met.

(3) Within the ceded territory, a commission warden may arrest a person for violation of state law or provide aid or assistance to a Wisconsin peace officer if all of the following criteria are met:

(a) The commission warden is on duty and on official business.

(b) Any of the following applies:

1. The commission warden is responding to any of the following:

a. An emergency situation that poses a significant threat to life or a significant threat of bodily harm.

b. Acts that the commission warden believes, on reasonable grounds, constitute a felony.

2. The commission warden is rendering aid or assistance to a Wisconsin peace officer in an emergency or at the request of the Wisconsin peace officer.

(c) The commission warden meets the requirements of s. 165.85 (4) (a) 1., 2., and 7. and has agreed to accept the duties of a law enforcement officer under the laws of this state.

(d) The commission has adopted and implemented written policies regarding making arrests and rendering aid or assistance under this subsection, including a policy on notification to and
cooperation with the law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction in which such arrests are made.

(e) The commission maintains liability insurance that does all of the following:
   1. Covers the commission and commission wardens for acts and omissions under sub. (4).
   2. Has a limit of coverage not less than $2,000,000 for any occurrence.
   3. Provides that the insurer, in defending a claim against the policy, may not raise the defense of sovereign immunity of the insured up to the limits of the policy.

(4) Except as otherwise provided in an agreement between the commission and the state or a subdivision of the state, the commission is liable for all acts and omissions of a commission warden while acting under sub. (2) or (3), and neither the state nor any political subdivision of the state may be held liable for any action of a commission warden taken under the authority of sub. (2) or (3).

For purposes of civil and criminal liability, a commission warden acting under sub. (2) or (3) is considered to be acting in an official capacity.

(5) Subsections (2) and (3) apply only if the commission has presented evidence to the department of justice of the insurance under sub. (3) (e). Upon receipt of evidence of insurance under sub. (3) (e), the department of justice shall notify the sheriff of each county in the ceded territory that the commission has met this criterion for performing the powers and duties described under subs. (2) and (3).

History: 2007 a. 27; 2013 a. 214.

175.42 Marquette University police department. (1) In this section:

(a) “University” means Marquette University.

(b) “University police officer” means an officer who is employed by the university police department, who has met the requirements of s. 165.85 (4) (a) 2. and 7. a., and who has agreed to accept the duties of a law enforcement officer under the laws of this state.

(2) (a) The university may enter into an agreement with the attorney general or with the city of Milwaukee police department to establish a university police department and employ university police officers for the purposes of maintaining public order, detecting and preventing crime, and enforcing state laws and local ordinances on the grounds of the university and in adjacent areas, as provided for in the agreement. The agreement establishing the university police department is subject to review under s. 62.50 (1m) by the board of fire and police commissioners.

(b) 1. Subject to the terms of the agreement under par. (a), university police officers have the same powers as law enforcement officers employed by the city of Milwaukee to maintain public order, to detect and prevent crime, to enforce state laws and local ordinances, and to make arrests for violations of state laws and local ordinances.

2. The law enforcement powers under subd. 1. of university police officers shall be concurrent with other law enforcement officers.

3. Subject to the terms of the agreement under par. (a), the university may assign additional duties to the university police department, including the enforcement of university regulations.

(c) The university police department shall do all of the following:

1. Ensure that each university police officer meets the requirements of s. 165.85 (4) (a) 2. and 7. a. and has agreed to accept the duties of a law enforcement officer under the laws of this state.

2. Adopt and implement written policies regarding law enforcement activities and rendering aid or assistance under this section, including a policy on notification to and cooperation with a law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction in which arrests are made.

3. Maintain liability insurance, and present evidence to the department of justice, that does all of the following:

   a. Covers the university and university police officers for acts and omissions under sub. (4).

   b. Has a limit of coverage not less than $2,000,000 for any occurrence.

   c. Provides that the insurer, in defending a claim against the policy, may not raise the defense of sovereign immunity of the insured up to the limits of the policy.

(3) For purposes of civil and criminal liability, a university police officer may, when in fresh pursuit, follow anywhere in the state and arrest any person for violation of the laws of this state, if the conditions of sub. (2) (c) are met.

(4) (a) Except as otherwise provided in an agreement under sub. (2) (a), the university is liable for all acts and omissions of a university police officer while acting under this section, and neither the state nor any political subdivision of the state may be held liable for any action of a university police officer taken under the authority of this section. For purposes of civil and criminal liability, a university police officer acting under this section is considered to be acting in an official capacity.

(b) The university shall pay in full any judgment in which the university and the state or a political subdivision of the state are found jointly and severally liable for any act of a university police officer taken under this section and shall reimburse the state or political subdivision for all reasonable attorneys fees and expenses incurred in defending the action.

History: 2013 a. 265; 2015 a. 195.

175.44 Law enforcement use of force. (1) Definitions.

In this section:

(a) “Law enforcement agency” has the meaning given in s. 165.83 (1) (b).

(b) “Law enforcement officer” has the meaning given in s. 165.85 (2) (c).

(2) Use of force. (a) The sanctity of human life. In serving the community, law enforcement officers shall make every effort to preserve and protect human life and the safety of all persons. Law enforcement officers shall also respect and uphold the dignity of all persons at all times in a nondiscriminatory manner.

(b) Use of force. When using force, a law enforcement officer is required to act in good faith to achieve a legitimate law enforcement objective. A law enforcement officer is authorized to use force that is objectively reasonable based on the totality of the circumstances, including:

1. The severity of the alleged crime at issue.

2. Whether the suspect poses an imminent threat to the safety of law enforcement officers or others.

3. Whether the suspect is actively resisting or attempting to evade arrest by flight.

(c) Deadly force. A law enforcement officer may use deadly force only as a last resort when the law enforcement officer reasonably believes that all other options have been exhausted or would be ineffective. A law enforcement officer may use deadly force only to stop behavior that has caused or imminently threatens to cause death or great bodily harm to the law enforcement officer or another person. If both practicable and feasible, a law enforcement officer shall give a verbal warning before using deadly force.

(3) Duty to report noncompliant use of force. (a) A law enforcement officer who, in the course of his or her law enforcement duties, witnesses another law enforcement officer use force that does not comply with the standards under sub. (2) (b) or (c) in the course of that law enforcement officer’s official duties shall report the noncompliant use of force as soon as is practicable after the occurrence of the use of such force.
(b) A person who intentionally fails to report a noncompliant use of force as required under par. (a) may be fined not more than $1,000 or imprisoned not more than 6 months or both.

(4) DUTY TO INTERVENE. (a) A law enforcement officer shall, without regard for chain of command, intervene to prevent or stop another law enforcement officer from using force that does not comply with the standards under sub. (2) (b) or (c) in the course of that law enforcement officer’s official duties if all of the following apply:

1. The law enforcement officer observes the use of force that does not comply with the standards under sub. (2) (b) or (c).

2. The circumstances are such that it is safe for the law enforcement officer to intervene.

(b) A law enforcement officer who intervenes as required under par. (a) shall report the intervention to his or her immediate supervisor as soon as is practicable after the occurrence of the use of such force.

(c) A person who intentionally fails to intervene as required under par. (a) or intentionally fails to report an intervention as required under par. (b) may be fined not more than $1,000 or imprisoned not more than 6 months or both.

(5) WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS. No law enforcement officer may be discharged, disciplined, demoted, or denied promotion, transfer, or reassignment, or otherwise discriminated against in regard to employment, or threatened with any such treatment, because the law enforcement officer reported, or is believed to have reported, any noncompliant use of force as required under sub. (3) or (4); intervened to prevent or stop a noncompliant use of force as required under sub. (4); initiated, participated in, or testified in, or is believed to have initiated, participated in, or testified in, any action or proceeding regarding a noncompliant use of force; or provided any information, or is believed to have provided any information, about noncompliant use of force as required under sub. (3) or (4).

History: 2021 a. 75.

175.46 Mutual aid agreements. (1) In this section:

(a) “Border county” means any of the following:

1. Any Wisconsin county that has land that is within 5 miles from any land of a physically adjacent state, as measured, where applicable, by any land that is above the ordinary high water mark.

2. Any county of a physically adjacent state which county has land that is within 5 miles from any land of Wisconsin, as measured, where applicable, by any land that is above the ordinary high water mark.

(b) “Law enforcement agency of a physically adjacent state” means a governmental unit of one or more persons employed by a physically adjacent state or a political subdivision of a physically adjacent state for the purpose of preventing and detecting crime and enforcing state laws or local ordinances, employees of which unit are authorized to make arrests for crimes while acting within the scope of their authority.

(c) “Law enforcement officer of a physically adjacent state” means any person employed by a physically adjacent state or a political subdivision of a physically adjacent state for the purpose of preventing and detecting crime and enforcing state laws or ordinances and who is authorized to make arrests for violations of the laws or ordinances he or she is employed to enforce.

(d) “Wisconsin law enforcement officer” means any person employed by this state or any political subdivision of this state, for the purpose of detecting and preventing crime and enforcing laws or ordinances and who is authorized to make arrests for violations of the laws or ordinances he or she is employed to enforce.

(2) Except as provided in sub. (8), a Wisconsin law enforcement agency may enter into a mutual aid agreement with a law enforcement agency of a physically adjacent state authorizing one or more of the following:

(a) Law enforcement officers of the law enforcement agency of the physically adjacent state to act with some or all of the arrest and other police authority of a law enforcement officer of the Wisconsin law enforcement agency while within the Wisconsin law enforcement agency’s territorial jurisdiction and within a border county.

(b) Law enforcement officers of the Wisconsin law enforcement agency to act with some or all of the arrest and other police authority of a law enforcement officer of the law enforcement agency of the physically adjacent state while within that agency’s territorial jurisdiction and within a border county.

(3) An agreement under this section shall be written and may be on an individual case-by-case basis or may be on a continuing basis until terminated by either agency.

(4) An agreement under this section may grant authority to an officer only to enforce laws and make arrests for violations of laws that are similar to the types of laws that he or she is authorized to enforce or make arrests for violations in his or her home state.

(5) (a) Except as provided in par. (b), any agreement under this section shall provide that any Wisconsin law enforcement officer, acting under the agreement in another state, shall continue to be covered by his or her employing agency for purposes of worker’s compensation, unemployment insurance, benefits under ch. 40 and civil liability and any officer of another state acting in Wisconsin under the agreement shall continue to be covered for worker’s compensation, unemployment insurance, disability and other employee benefits and civil liability purposes by his or her employing agency in his or her home state. Any Wisconsin officer acting within an adjoining state, under the agreement, is considered while so acting to be in the ordinary course of his or her employment with his or her employing Wisconsin law enforcement agency.

(b) An agreement under this section shall provide that any Wisconsin law enforcement officer, acting under the agreement in another state, is subject to any immunity from liability or limit on liability to the same extent as any officer of the other state. An agreement under this section shall provide that any law enforcement officer of another state, acting under the agreement in Wisconsin, is subject to any immunity from liability or limit on liability to the same extent as a Wisconsin law enforcement officer.

(6) No law enforcement officer of a physically adjacent state, acting under an agreement under this section, may be considered, for liability purposes, as an employee or agent of this state or any Wisconsin law enforcement agency for his or her actions within this state regardless of the supervision or control of the officer’s actions while within this state. The officer of the physically adjacent state is considered as continuing to be an employee of the agency employing him or her in the officer’s home state.

(7) Any agreement under this section entered into by a Wisconsin law enforcement agency may include any terms and conditions considered appropriate by that agency, except the agreement shall comply with this section.

(8) At least 30 days prior to entering into an agreement under sub. (2), a Wisconsin law enforcement agency shall submit a copy of the proposed agreement to the department of justice for the department’s review and comment. The department shall provide its comments to the Wisconsin law enforcement agency within 21 days after the department receives the proposed agreement. The Wisconsin law enforcement agency need not have the consent of
the department to enter into the agreement. The Wisconsin law enforcement agency may revise the proposed agreement without having to resubmit the proposed agreement to the department.


175.47 Review of deaths involving officers. (1) In this section:
(a) “Law enforcement agency” has the meaning given in s. 165.83 (1) (b).
(b) “Law enforcement officer” has the meaning given in s. 165.85 (2) (c).
(c) “Officer−involved death” means a death of an individual that results directly from an action or an omission of a law enforcement officer while the law enforcement officer is on duty or while the law enforcement officer is off duty but performing activities that are within the scope of his or her law enforcement duties.

(2) Each law enforcement agency shall have a written policy regarding the investigation of officer−involved deaths that involve a law enforcement officer employed by the law enforcement agency.

(3) (a) Each policy under sub. (2) must require an investigation conducted by at least 2 investigators, one of whom is the lead investigator and neither of whom is employed by a law enforcement agency that employs a law enforcement officer involved in the officer−involved death.

(b) If the officer−involved death being investigated is traffic−related, the policy under sub. (2) must require the investigation to use a crash reconstruction unit from a law enforcement agency that does not employ a law enforcement officer involved in the officer−involved death being investigated, except that a policy for a state law enforcement agency may allow an investigation involving a law enforcement officer employed by that state law enforcement agency to use a crash reconstruction unit from the same state law enforcement agency.

(c) Each policy under sub. (2) may allow an internal investigation into the officer−involved death if the internal investigation does not interfere with the investigation conducted under par. (a).

(4) Compensation for participation in an investigation under sub. (3) (a) may be determined in a manner consistent with mutual aid agreements.

(5) (a) The investigators conducting the investigation under sub. (3) (a) shall, in an expeditious manner, provide a complete report to the district attorney of the county in which the officer−involved death occurred.

(b) If the district attorney determined there is no basis to prosecute the law enforcement officer involved in the officer−involved death, the investigators conducting the investigation under sub. (3) (a) shall release the report, except that the investigators shall, before releasing the report, delete any information that would not be subject to disclosure pursuant to a request under s. 19.35 (1) (a).

History: 2013 a. 348; 2015 a. 55; 2021 a. 238 s. 45.

175.48 Law enforcement officer identification cards. (1) In this section, “Wisconsin law enforcement agency” has the meaning given in s. 175.46 (1) (f).

(2) If a Wisconsin law enforcement agency issues photographic identification cards to its officers, it may not require an officer to relinquish his or her card when the officer separates from service with the Wisconsin law enforcement agency unless one of the following applies:

(a) The officer may not lawfully possess a firearm under federal law.

(b) The officer did not separate from service in good standing as a law enforcement officer with the agency.

(c) The officer served as a law enforcement officer for an aggregate of less than 10 years. This paragraph does not apply if the officer, after completing any applicable probationary period of service with the agency, separated from service with the agency due to a service−connected disability, as determined by the agency.

(d) Either of the following applies:
1. A qualified medical professional employed by the law enforcement agency has found the officer to be unqualified to be a law enforcement officer for reasons related to the officer’s mental health.

2. The officer has entered into an agreement with the law enforcement agency from which he or she is separating from service in which the officer acknowledges that he or she is not qualified to be a law enforcement officer for reasons related to the officer’s mental health and in which the officer declines the photographic identification for that reason.

History: 2011 a. 35; 2015 a. 68.

175.49 Former law enforcement officers seeking to carry concealed weapons. (1) Definitions. In this section:
(a) “Department” means the department of justice.

(b) “Destructive device” has the meaning given in 18 USC 921 (a) (4).

(c) “Firearm silencer” has the meaning given in s. 941.298 (1).

(d) “Former federal law enforcement officer” means a person who separated from service as a law enforcement officer at a federal law enforcement agency and who resides in Wisconsin.

(e) “Former law enforcement officer” means a person who separated from service as a law enforcement officer at a state or local law enforcement agency in Wisconsin.

(f) “Former out−of−state law enforcement officer” means a person who separated from service as a law enforcement officer at a state or local law enforcement agency in a state other than Wisconsin and who resides in Wisconsin.

(g) “Law enforcement agency” means an agency that consists of one or more persons employed by the federal government, including any agency described under 18 USC 926C (e) (2), a state, or a political subdivision of a state; the U.S. armed forces; or the national guard, that has as its purposes the prevention and detection of crime and the enforcement of laws or ordinances, and that is authorized to make arrests for crimes.

(h) “Law enforcement officer” means a person who is employed by a law enforcement agency for the purpose of engaging in, or supervising others engaging in, the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of, or the incarceration of any person for, any violation of law and who has statutory powers of arrest.

(i) “Machine gun” has the meaning given in s. 941.25 (1).

(j) “Machine gun” means a law enforcement agency that assumes the responsibilities and duties of another law enforcement agency.

(2) Certification of former law enforcement officers. (a) Upon the request of a former law enforcement officer and at the expense of the former law enforcement officer, a law enforcement agency that employed the former law enforcement officer, or its successor agency, shall, except as provided in par. (b), issue the former law enforcement officer a certification card as described in sub. (4) stating all of the following:

1. The type of firearm the former law enforcement officer is certified to carry, but no former law enforcement officer may be

History: 2013 a. 348; 2015 a. 55; 2021 a. 238 s. 45.
certified to carry a machine gun, a firearm silencer, or a destructive
device.

2. The former law enforcement officer has been found by the
state, or by a certified firearms instructor if such an instructor is
qualified to conduct a firearms qualification test for active law
enforcement officers in the state, to meet the standards for qualifi-
cation in firearms training for active law enforcement officers to
carry a firearm of the type under subd. 1., that are established by
the state or, if the state does not establish standards, by the law
enforcement agency from which the former law enforcement offi-
cer separated or its successor agency.

3. The date on which the finding under subd. 2. was made and
an expiration date that is 12 months later than that date.

4. That, due to the finding under subd. 2., the former law
enforcement officer is qualified to carry a concealed firearm of the
type under subd. 1.

(b) The law enforcement agency may not issue the former law
enforcement officer a certification card under par. (a) unless the
law enforcement agency first verifies all of the following:

1. The former law enforcement officer separated from service
as a law enforcement officer with the law enforcement agency that
employed him or her in good standing.

2. The former law enforcement officer served as a law
enforcement officer for an aggregate of at least 10 years or the for-
ter law enforcement officer separated from law enforcement ser-
dvice due to a service-connected disability, as determined by the
law enforcement agency from which he or she separated from ser-
vice, after completing any applicable probationary period.

3. Both of the following:
   a. A qualified medical professional employed by the law
      enforcement agency from which the former law enforcement
      officer separated from service has not found the former law
      enforcement officer to be unqualified to be a law enforcement officer
      for reasons related to the former officer’s mental health.
   b. The former law enforcement officer has not entered into an
      agreement with the law enforcement agency from which he or she
      separated from service in which the former officer acknowledges
      that he or she is not qualified to be a law enforcement officer for
      reasons related to his or her mental health and in which he or she
      declines the photographic identification for that reason.

4. The former law enforcement officer is not prohibited under
federal law from possessing a firearm as indicated by a search of
the national criminal background check system.

5. The former law enforcement officer has, during the pre-
vious 12 months at his or her own expense, been found by the
state, or by a certified firearms instructor if such an instructor is
qualified to conduct a firearms qualification test for active law
enforcement officers in the state, to meet the standards for qualifi-
cation in firearms training for active law enforcement officers to
carry a firearm of the type under subd. 1., that are established by
the state or, if the state does not establish standards, by the law
enforcement agency from which the former law enforcement offi-
cer separated or its successor agency.

3. CERTIFICATION OF FORMER FEDERAL AND OUT-OF-STATE LAW
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS. (a) Upon the request of a former federal
law enforcement officer or a former out-of-state law enforcement
officer and at the expense of that law enforcement officer, the
department may, except as provided in par. (b), issue the former
federal law enforcement officer or former out-of-state law
enforcement officer a certification card as described in sub. (4)
stating all of the following:

1. The type of firearm the former federal law enforcement
officer or former out-of-state law enforcement officer is certified
to carry, but no former federal law enforcement officer or former
out-of-state law enforcement officer may be certified to carry a
machine gun, a firearm silencer, or a destructive device.

2. The former federal law enforcement officer or former out-
of-state law enforcement officer has been found by the state, or
by a certified firearms instructor if such an instructor is qualified
to conduct a firearms qualification test for active law enforcement
officers in the state, to meet the standards for qualification in fire-
arms training for active law enforcement officers to carry a fire-
arm of the type under subd. 1., that are established by the state or,
if the state does not establish standards, by any law enforcement
agency in the state.

3. The date on which the finding under subd. 2. was made and
an expiration date that is 12 months later than that date.

4. That, due to the finding under subd. 2., the former federal
law enforcement officer or former out-of-state law enforcement
officer is qualified to carry a concealed firearm of the type under
subd. 1.

(b) The department may not issue a former federal law
enforcement officer or former out-of-state law enforcement officer
a certification card under par. (a) unless the department first
verifies all of the following:

1. The former federal law enforcement officer or former out-
of-state law enforcement officer separated from service as a law
enforcement officer with the law enforcement agency in good
standing.

2. The former federal law enforcement officer or former out-
of-state law enforcement officer served as a law enforcement of-
ficer for an aggregate of at least 10 years or the former federal law
enforcement officer or former out-of-state law enforcement offi-
cer separated from law enforcement service due to a service-con-
ected disability, as determined by the law enforcement agency
from which the former officer separated, after completing any
applicable probationary period.

3. a. A qualified medical professional employed by the law
enforcement agency from which the former federal law enforce-
ment officer or former out-of-state law enforcement officer sepa-
rated has not found the former officer to be unqualified to be a law
enforcement officer for reasons related to the former officer’s mental health.
   b. The former federal law enforcement officer or former out-
of-state law enforcement officer has not entered into an agree-
ment with the law enforcement agency from which he or she
separated from service in which the former officer acknowledges
that he or she is not qualified to be a law enforcement officer for
reasons related to his or her mental health.

4. The former federal law enforcement officer or former out-
of-state law enforcement officer is not prohibited under federal
law from possessing a firearm as indicated by a search of the tran-
saction information for management of enforcement system and
the national criminal background check system.

5. The former federal law enforcement officer or former out-
of-state law enforcement officer has, during the previous 12
months at his or her own expense, been found by the
state, or by a certified firearms instructor if such an instructor is
qualified to conduct a firearms qualification test for active law
enforcement officers in the state, to meet the standards for qualifi-
cation in firearms training for active law enforcement officers to
carry a firearm of the type under subd. 1., that are established by
the state or, if the state does not establish standards, by the law
enforcement agency from which the former law enforcement offi-
cer separated or its successor agency.

(c) If, under par. (a), the department issues a former federal law
enforcement officer or former out-of-state law enforcement officer
a certification card, the department shall add the former offi-
cer’s information to the list the department maintains under s.
175.60 (12) (a).

Cross-reference: See also ch. Jus 18, Wis. adm. code.

(4) CERTIFICATION CARDS. (a) 1. Subject to pars. (b), (c), and
(d) and sub. (3) (a), the department shall design a certification card
to be issued by the department under sub. (3) (a).

2019–20 Wisconsin Statutes updated through 2021 Wis. Act 267 and through all Supreme Court and Controlled Substances Board Orders filed before and in effect on July 1, 2022. Published and certified under s. 35.18. Changes effective after July 1, 2022, are designated by NOTES. (Published 7–1–22)
2. Subject to pars. (b), (c), and (d) and sub. (2) (a), each law enforcement agency, upon a request, shall design a certification card to be issued by the law enforcement agency under sub. (2) (a).

(b) A certification card shall contain on one side all of the following:

1. The full name, date of birth, and residence address of the person who holds the certification card.

2. A photograph of the certification card holder and a physical description that includes sex, height, and eye color.

3. The name of this state.

(c) A certification card shall include a statement that the certification card does not confer any law enforcement authority on the certification card holder and does not make the certification card holder an employee or agent of the certifying agency or department.

(d) A certification card may not contain the certification card holder’s social security number.

5 (5) RENEWAL OF CERTIFICATION CARDS. A person who holds a current certification card issued under sub. (2) or (3) may renew the certification card by requesting the law enforcement agency or its successor agency, if the card was issued under sub. (2), or the department, if the card was issued under sub. (3), to renew the certification card at the expense of the person holding the card, if, before the date the certification card expires, the law enforcement agency verifies sub. (2) (b) 4. and 5. if the certification card holder is a former law enforcement officer, or the department verifies sub. (3) (b) 4. and 5. if the certification card holder is a former federal law enforcement officer or former out-of−state law enforcement officer, and the certification card holder provides any information necessary for the verification. The renewal shall state the date on which verification was made and an expiration date that is 12 months later than that date.

5m (5m) FEES. The department may charge a fee to verify eligibility for a certification card under this section, for the issuance of a certification card under sub. (3), or for the renewal of a certification card under sub. (5), but the fee may not exceed the costs the department incurs in verifying eligibility or for issuing or renewing a certification card. Payments made to the department under this subsection shall be credited to the appropriation account under s. 20.455 (2) (gr).

6 (6) IMMUNITY. (a) When acting in good faith under this section, the department and its employees are immune from civil and criminal liability arising from any act or omission under this section.

(b) When acting in good faith under this section, an entity providing firearms training to comply with the requirements under sub. (2) (a) 2. (3) (a) 2. or (5) and its employees are immune from civil and criminal liability arising from any act or omission that is related to that training.

7 (7) GOING ARMED WITH A FIREARM. This section does not limit a former officer’s right to go armed with a firearm that is not concealed.

History: 2011 a. 35; 2013 a. 20, 166, 168; 2015 a. 68, 197.

175.50 EYEWITNESS IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURES. (1) In this section:

(a) “Law enforcement agency” has the meaning given in s. 165.83 (1) (b).

(b) “Suspect” means a person suspected of committing a crime.

(2) Each law enforcement agency shall adopt written policies for using an eyewitness to identify a suspect upon viewing the suspect in person or upon viewing a representation of the suspect. The policies shall be designed to reduce the potential for erroneous identifications by eyewitnesses in criminal cases.

(3) A law enforcement agency shall biennially review policies adopted under this section.

(4) In developing and revising policies under this section, a law enforcement agency shall consider model policies and policies adopted by other jurisdictions.

(5) A law enforcement agency shall consider including in policies adopted under this section practices to enhance the objectivity and reliability of eyewitness identifications and to minimize the possibility of mistaken identifications, including the following:

(a) To the extent feasible, having a person who does not know the identity of the suspect administer the eyewitness’ viewing of individuals or representations.

(b) To the extent feasible, showing individuals or representations sequentially rather than simultaneously to an eyewitness.

(c) Minimizing factors that influence an eyewitness to identify a suspect or overstate his or her confidence level in identifying a suspect, including verbal or nonverbal reactions of the person administering the eyewitness’ viewing of individuals or representations.

(d) Documenting the procedure by which the eyewitness views the suspect or a representation of the suspect and documenting the results or outcome of the procedure.

History: 2005 a. 60.


175.51 REPORTS OF MISSING PERSONS AND REPORTS OF HIT−AND−RUN INCIDENTS. (1m) (a) In this subsection, “adult at risk” means an adult who has a developmental disability, who suffers from Alzheimer’s disease or dementia, or who suffers from or could, without access to medication, suffer from cognitive impairment if the impairment would likely render the adult incapable of getting to a familiar location without assistance.

(b) If a law enforcement agency receives a report of a missing adult at risk, the law enforcement agency shall use the form under s. 165.785 (2m) (a) 1. to disseminate the report using the integrated crime alert network.

(1v) (a) In this subsection, “veteran at risk” means a veteran or an active-duty member of the armed forces, the national guard, or the military reserve forces of the United States who is known, based on the information provided by the person making the report, to have a physical or mental health condition that is related to his or her service.

(b) If a law enforcement agency receives a report of a missing veteran at risk that is provided within 72 hours of the individual’s disappearance, the law enforcement agency shall use the form under s. 165.785 (2m) (a) 1. and the integrated crime alert network to disseminate the report as soon as practically possible if the law enforcement agency determines that all of the following apply:

1. There is reason to believe that the veteran at risk is missing due to his or her physical or mental health condition.

2. There is sufficient information available to disseminate that could assist in locating the missing veteran.

(2m) If a law enforcement agency receives a report of a violation of s. 346.67 or 346.70 (1), the law enforcement agency shall disseminate the report through the integrated crime alert network if the law enforcement agency determines that all of the following conditions are met.

(a) A person has been killed due to the accident that is related to the violation.

(b) The law enforcement agency has additional information that could help identify the person who has allegedly committed the violation or the vehicle involved in the violation.

(c) An alert could help avert further harm or aid in apprehending the person who allegedly committed the violation.

History: 2013 a. 264; 2015 a. 315; 2017 a. 175.

175.55 USE OF DRONES TO DISSEMINATE REPORTS. (1) In this section:
(a) “Drone” has the meaning given in s. 114.105 (1) (a).

(b) “Wisconsin law enforcement agency” has the meaning given in s. 165.77 (1) (c) and includes the department of justice and a tribal law enforcement agency.

(2) No Wisconsin law enforcement agency may use a drone to gather evidence or other information in a criminal investigation from or at a place or location where an individual has a reasonable expectation of privacy without first obtaining a search warrant under s. 968.12. This subsection does not apply to the use of a drone in a public place or to assist in an active search and rescue operation, to locate an escaped prisoner, to surveil a place or location for the purpose of executing an arrest warrant, or if a law enforcement officer has reasonable suspicion to believe that the use of a drone is necessary to prevent imminent danger to an individual or to prevent imminent destruction of evidence.

History: 2013 a. 213; 2017 a. 322.

175.60 License to carry a concealed weapon. (1) Definitions. In this section:

(ac) “Background check” means the searches the department conducts under sub. (9g) to determine a person’s eligibility for a license to carry a concealed weapon.

(ag) “Concealed” means to go armed with.

(b) “Department” means the department of justice.

(bm) “Handgun” means any weapon designed or redesigned, or made or remade, and intended to be fired while held in one hand and to use the energy of an explosive to expel a projectile through a smooth or rifled bore. “Handgun” does not include a machine gun, as defined in s. 941.25 (1), a short–barreled rifle, as defined in s. 941.28 (1) (b), or a short–barreled shotgun, as defined in s. 941.28 (1) (c).

(bv) “Law enforcement agency” does not include the department.

(c) “Law enforcement officer” has the meaning given in s. 165.85 (2) (c).

(d) “Licensee” means an individual holding a valid license to carry a concealed weapon issued under this section.

(dm) “Military resident” means an individual who is in active service in the U.S. armed forces and is stationed in this state for a term that is scheduled to be at least one year in duration.

(e) “Motor vehicle” has the meaning given in s. 340.01 (35).

(f) “Out–of–state license” means a valid permit, license, approval, or other authorization issued by another state if all of the following apply:

1. The permit, license, approval, or other authorization is for the carrying of a concealed weapon.

2. The state is listed in the rule promulgated by the department under s. 165.25 (16) and, if that state does not require a background search for the permit, license, approval, or authorization, the permit, license, approval, or authorization designates that the holder chose to submit to a background search.

(g) “Out–of–state licensee” means an individual who is 21 years of age or over, who is not a Wisconsin resident, and who has been issued an out–of–state license.

(h) “Photograph identification card” means one of the following:

1. An operator’s license issued under ch. 343 or an identification card issued under s. 343.50.

2. A license or card issued by a state other than Wisconsin that is substantially equivalent to a license or card under subd. 1.

(i) “State identification card number” means one of the following:

1. The unique identifying driver number assigned to a Wisconsin resident by the department of transportation under s. 343.17 (3) (a) 4. or, if the Wisconsin resident has no driver number, the number assigned to the Wisconsin resident on an identification card issued under s. 343.50.

2. The unique identifying driver number assigned to a military resident by the military resident’s state or, if the military resident has no driver number, the number assigned to the military resident on an identification card issued by the military resident’s state.

(j) “Weapon” means a handgun, an electric weapon, as defined in s. 941.295 (1c) (a), or a billy club.

(2) Issuance and scope of license. (a) The department shall issue a license to carry a concealed weapon to any individual who is not disqualified under sub. (3) and who completes the application process specified in sub. (7). A license to carry a concealed weapon issued under this section shall meet the requirements specified in sub. (2m).

(b) The department may not impose conditions, limitations, or requirements that are not expressly provided for in this section on the issuance, scope, effect, or content of a license.

(c) Unless expressly provided in this section, this section does not limit an individual’s right to carry a firearm that is not concealed.

(d) For purposes of 18 USC 922 (g) (2) (B) (ii), an out–of–state licensee is licensed by this state.

(2g) Carrying a concealed weapon; possession and display of license document or authorization. (a) A licensee or an out–of–state licensee may carry a concealed weapon anywhere in this state except as provided under subs. (15m) and (16) and ss. 941.13 (1m) (c) and 948.605 (2) (b) 1r.

(b) 1. Unless the licensee is carrying a concealed weapon in a manner described under s. 941.23 (2) (e), a licensee shall have with him or her, during all times he or she is carrying a concealed weapon, his or her license document, photographic identification card, and, if the licensee is a military resident, his or her military license.

2. Unless the out–of–state licensee is carrying a concealed weapon in a manner described under s. 941.23 (2) (e), an out–of–state licensee shall have with him or her, his or her out–of–state license and photographic identification card at all times during which he or she is carrying a concealed weapon.

(c) Unless the licensee or out–of–state licensee is carrying a concealed weapon in a manner described under s. 941.23 (2) (e), upon request by a law enforcement officer who is acting in an official capacity and with lawful authority, a licensee who is carrying a concealed weapon shall display to the officer his or her license document, photographic identification card, and, if the licensee is a military resident, his or her military license, and an out–of–state licensee who is carrying a concealed weapon shall display to the officer his or her out–of–state license and photographic identification card.

(2m) License document; content of license. (a) Subject to pars. (b), (bm), (c), and (d), the department shall design a single license document for licenses issued and renewed under this section. The department shall complete the design of the license document no later than September 1, 2011.

(b) A license document for a license issued under this section shall contain all of the following on one side:

1. The full name, date of birth, and residence address of the licensee.

2. A physical description of the licensee, including sex, height, and eye color.

3. The date on which the license was issued.

4. The date on which the license expires.

5. The name of this state.

6. A unique identification number for each licensee.

(bm) The reverse side of a license document issued under this section shall contain the requirement under sub. (11) (b) that the licensee shall inform the department of any address change no later than 30 days after his or her address changes and the penalty for a violation of the requirement.
(c) The license document may not contain the licensee’s social security number.

(d) 1. The contents of the license document shall be included in the document in substantially the same way that the contents of an operator’s license document issued under s. 343.17 are included in that document.

2. The license document issued under this section shall be tamper proof in substantially the same way that the operator’s license is tamper proof under s. 343.17 (2).

(e) The department of justice may contract with the department of transportation to produce and issue license documents under this section. Neither the department of transportation nor any employee of the department of transportation may store, maintain, or access the information provided by the department of justice for the production or issuance of license documents other than to the extent necessary to produce or issue the license documents.

(3) RESTRICTIONS ON ISSUING A LICENSE. The department shall issue a license under this section to an individual who submits an application under sub. (7) unless any of the following applies:

(a) The individual is less than 21 years of age.

(b) The individual is prohibited under federal law from possessing a firearm that has been transported in interstate or foreign commerce.

(c) The individual is prohibited from possessing a firearm under s. 941.29.

(d) The court has prohibited the individual from possessing a dangerous weapon under s. 969.02 (3) (c) or 969.03 (1) (c).

(e) The individual is on release under s. 969.01 and the individual may not possess a dangerous weapon as a condition of the release.

(f) The individual is not one of the following:

1. A Wisconsin resident.

2. A military resident.

(g) The individual has not provided proof of training as described under sub. (4) (a).

(4) TRAINING REQUIREMENTS. (a) The proof of training requirement under sub. (7) (e) may be met by any of the following:

1. A copy of a document, or an affidavit from an instructor or organization that conducted the course or program, that indicates the individual completed any of the following:

   a. The hunter education program established under s. 29.591 or a substantially similar program that is established by another state, country, or province and that is recognized by the department of natural resources.

   b. A firearms safety or training course that is conducted by a national or state organization that certifies firearms instructors or an organization that conducted the course or program, that indicates the individual completed any of the following:

      i. The course is taught by an instructor who is certified by a national or state organization that certifies firearms instructors or by the department, by a technical college, a college or a university, a private or public institution or organization, or a firearms training school.

      ii. A firearms safety or training course that is offered to law enforcement officers or to owners and employees of licensed private and public security officers or to owners and employees of licensed private detective and security agencies.

   c. A firearms safety or training course that is conducted by a firearms instructor who is certified by a national or state organization that certifies firearms instructors or who is certified by the department.

2. Documentation that the individual completed military, law enforcement, or security training that gave the individual experience with firearms that is substantially equivalent to a course or program under subd. 1.

3. A current or expired license, or a photocopy of a current or expired license, that the individual holds or has held that indicates that the individual is licensed or has been licensed to carry a firearm in this state or in another state or in one county or municipal-
(e) Proof of training as described under sub. (4) (a).

(9) PROCESSING OF APPLICATION. (a) Upon receiving an application submitted under sub. (7), the department shall conduct a background check.

(b) Within 21 days after receiving a complete application under sub. (7), the department shall do one of the following:

1. Issue the license and promptly send the licensee his or her license document by 1st class mail.

2. Deny the application, but only if sub. (3) (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), or (g) applies to the applicant. If the department denies the application, the department shall inform the applicant in writing, stating the reason and factual basis for the denial.

(9g) BACKGROUND CHECKS. (a) The department shall conduct a background check regarding an applicant for a license using the following procedure:

1. The department shall create a confirmation number associated with the applicant.

2. The department shall conduct a criminal history record search and shall search its records and conduct a search in the national instant criminal background check system to determine whether the applicant is prohibited from possessing a firearm under federal law; whether the applicant is prohibited from possessing a firearm under s. 941.29; whether the applicant is prohibited from possessing a firearm under s. 51.20 (13) (cv) 1., 2007 stats.; whether the applicant has been ordered not to possess a firearm under s. 51.20 (13) (cv) 1., 51.45 (13) (i) 1., 54.10 (3) (f) 1., or 55.12 (10) (a); whether the subject is subject to an injunction under s. 813.12 or 813.122, or a tribal injunction, as defined in s. 813.12 (1) (e), issued by a court established by any federally recognized Wisconsin Indian tribe or band, except the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, that includes notice to the respondent that he or she is subject to the requirements and penalties under s. 813.128 (3g); and whether the applicant is prohibited from possessing a firearm under s. 813.123 (5m) or 813.125 (4m); and to determine if the court has prohibited the applicant from possessing a dangerous weapon under s. 969.02 (3) (c) or 969.03 (1) (c) and if the applicant is prohibited from possessing a dangerous weapon as a condition of release under s. 969.01.

3. As soon as practicable, the department shall do the following:
   a. If the background check indicates sub. (3) (b), (c), (d), or (e) applies to the applicant, create a unique nonapproval number for the applicant.
   b. If the completed background check does not indicate that sub. (3) (b), (c), (d), or (e) applies to the applicant, create a unique approval number for the applicant.
   c. The department shall maintain a record of all completed application forms and a record of all approval or nonapproval numbers regarding background checks under this subsection.

(9r) EMERGENCY LICENSE. (a) An individual who requires an immediate license may petition the court in the county in which he or she resides for such a license. Unless the court knows that the individual is ineligible for a license under sub. (3), a court may issue an emergency license to an individual if the court determines that immediate licensure is warranted to protect the individual from death or great bodily harm, as defined in s. 939.22 (14).

(b) An emergency license issued under this subsection is valid for 30 days unless it is revoked under par. (bm) or it is void under par. (c).

(bm) If the court determines that a holder of an emergency license issued under par. (a) is ineligible under sub. (3) for a license, the court shall revoke the emergency license.

(c) If the holder of an emergency license issued under par. (a) applies for a license under sub. (7) and is determined to be ineligible for such a license under sub. (3) for a license, the emergency license is void.

(11) UPDATED INFORMATION. (a) 1. In this paragraph:

a. “Clerk” means the clerk of the circuit court or, if it has enacted a law or an ordinance in conformity with s. 346.63, the clerk of the court for a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state, a city, a village, or a town.

b. “Court automated information systems” means the systems under s. 758.19 (4).

c. The individual is found not guilty of any crime by reason of mental disease or mental defect under s. 971.17.

d. The individual is involuntarily committed for treatment under s. 51.20 or 51.45.

e. The individual is found incompetent under ch. 54.

f. The individual becomes subject to an injunction described in s. 941.29 (1m) (f) or is ordered not to possess a firearm under s. 813.123 (5m) or 813.125 (4m).

g. A court has prohibited the individual from possessing a dangerous weapon under s. 969.02 (3) (c) or 969.03 (1) (c).  

h. A court has ordered the individual not to possess a firearm under s. 51.20 (13) (cv) 1., 51.45 (13) (i) 1., 54.10 (3) (f) 1., or 55.12 (10) (a).

i. The individual is on release under s. 969.01 and the individual may not possess a dangerous weapon as a condition of the release.

3. Upon receiving a notice under subd. 2., the department shall immediately determine if the individual who is the subject of the notice is a licensee, using the list maintained under sub. (12) (a).

(b) 1. No later than 30 days after changing his or her address, a licensee shall inform the department of the new address. The department shall issue the individual’s new address in the list under sub. (12) (a).

2. Except as provided in subd. 3., for a first violation of subd. 1., the department must issue the licensee a warning.

3. If an individual is in violation of subd. 1. and his or her license has been suspended or revoked under sub. (14), the individual is subject to the penalty under sub. (17) (ac).

4. A licensee may not be charged with a violation of subd. 1. if the department learns of the violation when the licensee informs the department of the address change.

(12) MAINTENANCE, USE, AND PUBLICATION OF RECORDS BY THE DEPARTMENT. (a) The department shall maintain a computerized record listing the names and the information specified in sub. (2m) (b) of all individuals who have been issued a license under this section and all individuals issued a certification card under s. 175.49 (3). Subject to par. (b) 1. b., neither the department nor any employee of the department may store, maintain, format, sort, or access the information in any way other than by the names, dates of birth, or sex of licensees or individuals or by the identification numbers assigned to licensees under sub. (2m) (b) 6.

(b) 1. A law enforcement officer may not request or be provided information under par. (a) concerning a specific individual except for one of the following purposes:

a. To confirm that a license or certification card produced by an individual at the request of a law enforcement officer is valid.

b. If an individual is carrying a concealed weapon and claims to hold a valid license issued under this section or a valid certification card issued under s. 175.49 (3) but does not have his or her
license document or certification card, to confirm that the individual holds a valid license or certification card.

c. To investigate whether an individual submitted an intentionally false statement under sub. (7) (b) or (15) (b) 2.

d. To investigate whether an individual complied with sub. (14) (b) 3.

2. A person who is a law enforcement officer in a state other than Wisconsin may request and be provided information under subd. 1. a. and b.

(c) Notwithstanding s. 19.35, the department of justice, the department of transportation, or any employee of either department may not make information obtained under this section available to the public except in the context of a prosecution for an offense in which the person’s status as a licensee or holder of a certification card is relevant or through a report created under sub. (19).

(12g) Providing licensee information to law enforcement agencies. (a) The department shall provide information concerning a specific individual on the list maintained under sub. (12) (a) to a law enforcement agency, but only if the law enforcement agency is requesting the information for any of the following purposes:

1. To confirm that a license or certification card produced by an individual at the request of a law enforcement officer is valid.

2. If an individual is carrying a concealed weapon and claims to hold a valid license issued under this section or a valid certification card issued under s. 175.49 (3) but does not have his or her license document or certification card, to confirm that an individual holds a valid license or certification card.

3. If the law enforcement agency is a Wisconsin law enforcement agency, to investigate whether an individual submitted an intentionally false statement under sub. (7) (b) or (15) (b) 2.

(b) 1. Notwithstanding s. 19.35 neither a law enforcement agency nor any of its employees may make information regarding an individual that was obtained from the department under this subsection available to the public except in the context of a prosecution for an offense in which the person’s status as a licensee or holder of a certification card is relevant.

2. Neither a law enforcement agency nor any of its employees may store or maintain information regarding an individual that was obtained from the department under this subsection based on the individual’s status as a licensee or holder of a certificate card.

3. Neither a law enforcement agency nor any of its employees may sort or access information regarding vehicle stops, investigations, civil or criminal offenses, or other activities involving the agency based on the status as licensees or holders of certification cards of any individuals involved.

(13) Lost or destroyed license. If a license document is lost, a licensee no longer has possession of his or her license, or a license document is destroyed, unreadable, or unusable, a licensee may submit to the department a statement requesting a replacement license document, the license document or any portions of the license document if available, and a $12 replacement fee. The department shall issue a replacement license document to the licensee within 14 days of receiving the statement and fee. If the licensee does not submit the original license document to the department, the department shall terminate the unique approval number of the original request and issue a new unique approval number for the replacement request.

(14) License revocation, suspension, and surrender. (a) The department shall revoke a license issued under this section if the department determines that sub. (3) (b), (c), (e), (f), or (g) applies to the licensee.

(am) The department shall suspend a license issued under this section if a court has prohibited the licensee from possessing a dangerous weapon under s. 969.02 (3) (c) or 969.03 (1) (c). If the individual whose license was suspended is no longer subject to the prohibition under s. 969.02 (3) (c) or 969.03 (1) (c), whichever is applicable, sub. (3) (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), or (g) does not apply to the individual, and the suspended license would not have expired under sub. (15) (a) had it not been suspended, the department shall restore the license within 5 business days of notification that the licensee is no longer subject to the prohibition.

(b) 1. If the department suspends or revokes a license issued under this section, the department shall send by mail the individual whose license has been suspended or revoked notice of the suspension or revocation within one day after the suspension or revocation.

2. If the department suspends or revokes a license under this section, the suspension or revocation takes effect when the individual whose license has been suspended or revoked receives the notice under subd. 1.

3. Within 7 days after receiving the notice, the individual whose license has been suspended or revoked shall do one of the following:

a. Deliver the license document personally or by certified mail to the department.

b. Mail a signed statement to the department stating that he or she no longer has possession of his or her license document and stating the reasons why he or she no longer has possession.

c. A military resident who holds a license shall surrender the license at the time he or she ceases to be stationed in this state.

(14g) Departmental review. The department shall promulgate rules providing for the review of any action by the department denying an application for, or suspending or revoking, a license under this section.

(14m) Appeals to the circuit court. (a) An individual aggrieved by any action by the department denying an application for, or suspending or revoking, a license under this section, may appeal directly to the circuit court of the county in which the individual resides without regard to whether the individual has sought review under the process established in sub. (14g).

(b) To begin an appeal under this subsection, the aggrieved individual shall file a petition for review with the clerk of the applicable circuit court within 30 days of receiving notice of denial of an application for a license or of suspension or revocation of a license. The petition shall state the substance of the department’s action from which the individual is appealing and the grounds upon which the individual believes the department’s action to be improper. The petition may include a copy of any records or documents that are relevant to the grounds upon which the individual believes the department’s action to be improper.

(c) A copy of the petition shall be served upon the department either personally or by registered or certified mail within 5 days after the individual files his or her petition under par. (b).

(d) The department shall file an answer within 15 days after being served with the petition under par. (c). The answer shall include a brief statement of the actions taken by the department. The department shall include with the answer if filed a copy of any documents or records on which the department based its action.

(e) The court shall review the petition, the answer, and any records or documents submitted with the petition or the answer. The review under this paragraph shall be conducted by the court without a jury but the court may schedule a hearing and take testimony.

(f) The court shall reverse the department’s action if the court finds any of the following:

1. That the department failed to follow any procedure, or take any action, prescribed under this section.

2. That the department erroneously interpreted a provision of law and a correct interpretation compels a different action.

3. That the department’s action depends on a finding of fact that is not supported by substantial evidence in the record.

4. a. If the appeal is regarding a denial, that the denial was based on factors other than the factors under sub. (3).
b. If the appeal is regarding a suspension or revocation, that the suspension or revocation was based on criteria other than those under sub. (14) (a) or (am).

(g) 1. The court’s decision shall provide whatever relief is appropriate regardless of the original form of the petition.

2. If the court reverses the department’s action, the court may order the department to pay the aggrieved individual all court costs and reasonable attorney fees.

(15) LICENSE EXPIRATION AND RENEWAL. (a) Except as provided in par. (e) and sub. (9g) (b), or unless the license is suspended or revoked under sub. (14), a license initially issued under this section is valid for a period of 5 years from the date on which the license is issued and a license renewed under this section is valid as follows:

1. If the license is renewed under this section before or on the expiration date of the license being renewed, the license is valid for 5 years from the expiration date of the license being renewed.

2. If the license is renewed under this section after the expiration date of the license being renewed, the license is valid for 5 years from the date of renewal.

(b) The department shall design a notice of expiration form. At least 90 days before the expiration date of a license issued under this section, the department shall mail to the licensee a notice of expiration form and a form for renewing the license. The department shall renew the license if, no later than 90 days after the expiration date of the license, the licensee does all of the following:

1. Submits a renewal application on the form provided by the department.

2. Submits a statement reporting that the information provided under sub. 1. is true and complete to the best of his or her knowledge and that he or she is not disqualified under sub. (3).

4. Pays all of the following:

a. A renewal fee in an amount, as determined by the department by rule, that is equal to the cost of renewing the license but does not exceed $12. The department shall determine the costs of renewing a license by using a 5-year planning period.

b. A fee for a background check that is equal to the fee charged under s. 175.35 (2).

(c) The department shall conduct a background check of a licensee as provided under sub. (9g) before renewing the licensee’s license under par. (b).

(d) The department shall issue a renewal license by 1st class mail within 21 days of receiving a renewal application, statement, and fees under par. (b).

(e) The license of a member of the U.S. armed forces, a reserve unit of the armed forces, or the national guard who is deployed overseas while on active duty may not expire until at least 90 days after the end of the licensee’s overseas deployment unless the license is suspended or revoked under sub. (14).

(15m) EMPLOYER RESTRICTIONS. (a) Except as provided in par. (b), an employer may prohibit a licensee or an out-of-state licensee that it employs from carrying a concealed weapon or a particular type of concealed weapon in the course of the licensee’s or out-of-state licensee’s employment or during any part of the licensee’s or out-of-state licensee’s course of employment.

(b) An employer may not prohibit a licensee or an out-of-state licensee, as a condition of employment, from carrying a concealed weapon, a particular type of concealed weapon, or ammunition or from storing a weapon, a particular type of weapon, or ammunition in the licensee’s or out-of-state licensee’s own motor vehicle, regardless of whether the motor vehicle is used in the course of employment or whether the motor vehicle is driven or parked on property used by the employer.

(16) PROHIBITED ACTIVITY. (a) Except as provided in par. (b), neither a licensee nor an out-of-state licensee may knowingly carry a concealed weapon, a weapon that is not concealed, or a firearm that is not a weapon in any of the following places:

1. Any portion of a building that is a police station, sheriff’s office, state patrol station, or the office of a division of criminal investigation special agent of the department.

2. Any portion of a building that is a prison, jail, house of correction, or secured correctional facility.

3. The facility established under s. 46.055.

4. The center established under s. 46.056.

5. Any secured unit or secured portion of a mental health institute under s. 51.05, including a facility designated as the Maximum Security Facility at Mendota Mental Health Institute.

6. Any portion of a building that is a county, state, or federal courthouse.

7. Any portion of a building that is a municipal courtroom if court is in session.

8. A place beyond a security checkpoint in an airport.

(b) The prohibitions under par. (a) do not apply to any of the following:

1. A weapon in a vehicle driven or parked in a parking facility located in a building that is used as, or any portion of which is used as, a location under par. (a).

2. A weapon in a courthouse or courtroom if a judge who is a licensee is carrying the weapon or if another licensee or out-of-state licensee, whom a judge has permitted in writing to carry a weapon, is carrying the weapon.

3. A weapon in a courthouse or courtroom if a district attorney, or an assistant district attorney, who is a licensee is carrying the weapon.

(17) PENALTIES. (a) Any person who violates sub. (2g) (b) or (c) may be required to forfeit not more than $25, except that the person shall be exempted from the forfeiture if the person presents to the law enforcement agency that employs the requesting law enforcement officer, within 48 hours, his or her license document and out-of-state license, photographic identification, and, if pertinent, military license.

1. Any person who violates sub. (2m) (e), (12), or (12g) may be fined not more than $500 or sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not more than 30 days or both.

2. Any person who violates sub. (2m) (f), (g), or (h) may be fined not more than $50 or sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not more than 30 days or both.

2. Any portion of a building that is a county, state, or federal courthouse.

3. Any portion of a building that is a municipal courtroom if court is in session.

4. A place beyond a security checkpoint in an airport.

5. A license initially issued under this section before or on the expiration date of the license being renewed, the license is valid for 5 years from the expiration date of the license being renewed.

6. The facility established under s. 46.055.

7. The center established under s. 46.056.

8. Any secured unit or secured portion of a mental health institute under s. 51.05, including a facility designated as the Maximum Security Facility at Mendota Mental Health Institute.

9. Any portion of a building that is a county, state, or federal courthouse.

10. Any portion of a building that is a municipal courtroom if court is in session.

11. A place beyond a security checkpoint in an airport.

12. A license initially issued under this section before or on the expiration date of the license being renewed, the license is valid for 5 years from the expiration date of the license being renewed.

13. The facility established under s. 46.055.

14. The center established under s. 46.056.

15. Any secured unit or secured portion of a mental health institute under s. 51.05, including a facility designated as the Maximum Security Facility at Mendota Mental Health Institute.

16. Any portion of a building that is a county, state, or federal courthouse.

17. Any portion of a building that is a municipal courtroom if court is in session.

18. A place beyond a security checkpoint in an airport.

19. A license initially issued under this section before or on the expiration date of the license being renewed, the license is valid for 5 years from the expiration date of the license being renewed.

20. The facility established under s. 46.055.

21. The center established under s. 46.056.

22. Any secured unit or secured portion of a mental health institute under s. 51.05, including a facility designated as the Maximum Security Facility at Mendota Mental Health Institute.

23. Any portion of a building that is a county, state, or federal courthouse.

24. Any portion of a building that is a municipal courtroom if court is in session.

25. A place beyond a security checkpoint in an airport.
The department may not include in the report any information that may be used to identify an applicant or a licensee, including, but not limited to, a name, address, birth date, or social security number.

(21) IMMUNITY. (a) The department of justice, the department of transportation, and the employees of each department; clerks, as defined in sub. (11) (a) 1. a., and their staff; and court automated information systems, as defined under sub. (11) (a) 1. b., and their employees are immune from liability arising from any act or omission under this section, if done so in good faith.

(b) A person that does not prohibit an individual from carrying a concealed weapon on property that the person owns or occupies is immune from any liability arising from its decision.

(c) An employer that does not prohibit one or more employees from carrying a concealed weapon under sub. (15m) is immune from any liability arising from its decision.

(d) A person providing a firearms training course in good faith is immune from liability arising from any act or omission related to the course if the course is one described in sub. (4) (a).

History: 2011 a. 35; 2013 a. 166 s. 76; 2013 a. 167, 223; 2015 a. 67, 109, 149, 197, 352; 2017 a. 5.

Cross-reference: See also ch. Jus 17, Wis. adm. code.

This section preempts a municipality’s authority to restrict a licensee’s right to carry concealed weapons on the municipality’s buses so long as the licensee complies with the requirements of this section. Wisconsin Carry, Inc. v. City of Madison, 2017 WI 19, 373 Wis. 2d 543, 892 N.W.2d 233, 15–0146.