

**WISCONSIN MOTOR CARRIERS ASSOCIATION
LEGISLATIVE TRACKING REPORT
2007-2008**

ASSEMBLY BILLS INTRODUCED

Bill No. – Author	Title	Description	Action	Position
AB 2 Wasserman (D)	Driver's License	Would require drivers between the ages of 75 and 85 to pass an eye sight test every 3 years. Over 85 must pass an eye test and knowledge test of traffic laws every two years.	To Transportation Com	Support
AB 5 Schneider (D)	Telephone solicitations	Would allow an extension to 5 years from two allowing telephone customers to opt out of phone solicitation without prior notice to DATCP. Creates a penalty for harassment by a solicitor of a fine of up to \$10,000 and up to 3 years-6 months imprisonment.	To Consumer Protection Com	Monitor
AB 38 Owens (R)	Use of Cellular Telephones	Creates a traffic offense for operating motor vehicle primarily at fault in an accident and the operator's use of a cellular telephone contributed to the accident.	To Transportation Com	Monitor
AB 54 Staskunas (D)	Repeat OWI Offenders	Would increase the penalties for multiple drunken driving convictions.	Amended & passed by Judiciary Com – To Rules	Support
AB-67 Zipperer (R)	Tax Credit	Creates an income and franchise tax credit for businesses that pay for an individual to attend a college, university, or technical college	To Jobs /Economy Com – Pub hearing held –amendments offered	Monitor
AB 81 Benedict (D)	Surcharge on weight violations	Would create a 10% surcharge on all violations detected Northbound I-39/90 weigh station in Rock County	To Transportation Com	Oppose
AB 85 Sheridan (D)	Tax Credit	Would allow an income and franchise tax credit for any new motor vehicle licensed for highway use and capable of using gasoline and mixture 85% ethanol.	Amended & passed Biofuels Com – To Joint Finance	Oppose
AB 112 Bies (R)	Fuel Tax	Would exempt school districts from the motor vehicle fuel tax	To Transportation Com – Public hearing held	Oppose
AB 113 Bies (R)	Safety Belts	Would allow primary enforcement of safety (seat) belts and increase penalties	To Transportation Com	Monitor
AB 128 Honadel (R)	Tort Reform	Provides that a manufacturer, distributor, seller, or promoter of a product may only be held liable if the injured party proves that the specific product that cause the injury was manufactured, distributed, sold or promoted by the defendant.	To Judiciary Com	Support
AB 136 Ballweg (R)	Fuel Tax	Would allow a local unit of government, school district or technical college district a refund on fuel tax on the purchase of fuel. Would also allow contractors that transport students to and from school activities a fuel tax refund for such transportation.	Passed Urban & Local Affairs Com – To Joint Finance	Oppose
AB 145 Staskunas (D)	OWI	Increases the driver improvement surcharge to \$455 from \$355.	To Corrections & Courts Com – public hearing held	Monitor

AB 164 Friske (R)	Truck Weight	Repeals 2005 WI Act 167 provision of the elimination of the frozen road weight limitation exception for forest products.	To Transportation Com	Monitor
AB 182 Schneider (D)	OWI	Would require DOT to purge after 10 years a person's record of any conviction, suspension or revocation related to an OWI. Would not apply to convictions occurring in a CMV operated by a CDL driver.	To Transportation Com	Monitor
AB 190 Vos (R)	Taxes	Would reduce state income tax rates for individuals, certain fiduciaries, heads of households and married persons	Passed Ways & Means Com – to Joint Finance	Monitor
AB 200 Schneider (D)	Motor Fuel	Would prohibit a retailer or wholesaler of petroleum based fuels of increasing the price of fuel more than the amount of any concurrent increase in the person's acquisition, production, distribution, or operating costs	To Judiciary Com	Monitor
AB 203 Sheridan (D)	School Buses	Would require an electronic seat check reminder that will require that after turning off the bus's ignition switch, the driver must walk to the rear of the bus past each seat to check for passengers before exiting the bus	To Transportation Com – amendment offered	Monitor
AB 215 Bies (D)	Inattentive Driving	(see companion bill SB-105)	Amended & passed by Trans Com – To Rules	Monitor
AB 238 Joint Legislative Council	Truck Size & Weight	Directs the Wisconsin DOT to contract for a study of the State's truck size and weight limit laws.	Passed Assembly – To Sen Transp Com	Monitor
AB 244 Albers (R)	Taxes	Would eliminate the property tax on personal property.	To Ways & Means Com – Public hearing held	Monitor
AB 274 Mason (D)	Minimum Wage	Raises the minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour	To Jobs & Economy Com	Monitor
AB 399 Nelson (D)	Motor Fuel	Prohibits charging for motor fuel a wholesale price that exceeds the average wholesale price at which it was sold in the previous 12-month period.	To Judiciary Com	Monitor
AB 408 Zepnick (D)	Excessive Prices	Would prohibit charging grossly excessive prices for consumer goods and services and providing penalty	To Judiciary Com	Monitor
AB 414 Sherman (D)	Weight Permits	Would allow annual overweight permit for transporting loads of peeled or unpeeled forest products within 11 miles of the WI-MI border	Passed Forestry Com – To Rules Com	Monitor
AB 422 Bies (R)	Motor Buses	Would create annual admission sticker for buses to enter State parks	Passed Tourism Com – To Rules	Monitor
AB 475 Molpeske (D)	Driver' License	Puts conditions on the State's adoption of the Federal Real ID Act.	To Trans Com	Monitor
AB 523 Bies (R)	Leaving the Scene of an Accident	Makes leaving the scene of an accident that results in causing injury without providing the required information a felony.	To Criminal Justice Com – Public hearing held	Monitor
AB 528 Zepnick (D)	Traffic Control Signals	Would allow local units of government to enact ordinances that permit the use of a traffic control photographic system	To Urban & Local Affairs Com – Public hearing held	Monitor
AB 579 Ballweg (R)	Small Claims	Would increase jurisdictional limit in small claims actions from \$5,000 to \$10,000	To Judiciary Com	Monitor
AB 594 Law Revision Com	Vehicle Registration	Clarifies requirement that motor vehicles must be registered of or have a registration in process before being operated on a highway	To Transp Com.	Monitor
AB 618 Krusick (D)	Vehicle Impoundment	Allows local units of government to enact an ordinance to allow immobilization, removal, impoundment and disposal of vehicles owned by habitual parking offenders.	To Urban & Local Affairs – Public hearing held	Monitor

AB 644 Friske (R)	Vehicle Inspections	Would require alternative school vehicles to be inspected annually	To Transportation Com	Support
AB 675 Pope-Roberts (D)	Buses	Creates a distinct category of school bus called a multifunctional school activity bus (MFSAB). MFSABs not equipped with flashing red warning lights would not be subject to the operational requirements of school buses	To Transportation Com	Monitor
AB 682 Suder (R)	Motor Fuels	This would exact a penalty on a refiner, wholesaler, and retailer of diesel fuel if the percentage of renewable fuel sold is less than a certain percentage of all motor vehicle fuels.	To Com on Biofuels & Sustainable Energy	Oppose
AB 689 Petrowski (D)	Truck Weight	Extends the annual end date for the exception that allows combinations transporting certain agricultural commodities to exceed weight limits by 15 percent	To Transportation Com	Support

SENATE BILLS INTRODUCED

Bill No. – Author	Title	Description	Action	Position
SB 27 Lassa (D)	OWI	Allows for the immediate release of an OWI offender if a qualified person (attorney, spouse, relative, etc) accepts legal responsibility for actions of the arrested person. Officer may release vehicle to a member of the arrested person's household.	To Judiciary Com	Monitor
SB 40	Budget	State finances and appropriations, constituting the executive budget act of the 2007 legislature.	Enacted – 2007 WI Act 20	Monitor
SB 53 A. Lasee ®	Fuel Tax	Creates an exemption from excise tax imposed on fuel by school districts and their contractor to transport students to and from school activities	To Transportation Com	Oppose
SB 58 Kanavas ®	Taxes	Would reduce state income tax rates for individuals, certain fiduciaries, heads of households and married persons (companion bill to AB 190)	To Joint Finance Com	Monitor
SB 59 Kanavas ®	Tort Reform	Establishes the criteria to determine if a product manufacturer, distributor or seller is liable to a person injured by the manufactured product on a claim of strict liability.	To Judiciary Com	Support
SB 61 Kanavas ®	Tort Reform	(See companion bill AB 128)	To Judiciary Com	Support
SB 68 Leibham ®	Estate Tax	Would eliminate the state estate tax.	To Tax Exemptions Com	Monitor
SB 82 Robson (D)	Surcharge on Weight Violations	(See companion bill AB 81)	To Transportation Com	Oppose
SB 84 Lassa (D)	Fuel Tax	(See companion bill AB 136)	To Transportation Com	Oppose
SB 99 Erpenbach (D)	Telephone Solicitation	Expands current law prohibiting telephone solicitation to include cell phones and fax machines.	Passed Small Business Com – To Joint Finance	Monitor
SB 105 Grothman ®	Inattentive Driving	Expands and modifies certain provisions of the inattentive driving law.	To Transportation Com	Monitor
SB 116 Sullivan (D)	Repeat OWI Offenders	Would increase the penalties for multiple drunken driving convictions. (Companion Bill to AB-54)	Amended & passed Judiciary Com	Support
SB 120 Risser (D)	Safety Belts	(See companion bill AB-113)	To Trans Com – Public hearing held	Monitor
SB 130 Decker (D)	Minimum Wage	Increases minimum wage from \$6.50 to \$7.25	Passed Labor Com	Monitor

SB 181 Breske (D)	Repair of Motor Vehicles	Would provide that an insurer that pays for the repairs to a motor vehicle must pay for the repair at the same rate that the general public pays in that geographic are, unless the insurer and the repair facility have an agreement otherwise.	To Transportation Com – amendment offered – Public hearing held	Monitor
SB 296 Darling (R)	Towing & Impoundment	Would allow a municipality, as part of any authorized traffic ordinance, to provide for the removal (towing) and impoundment, at the time a citation is issued, of any motor vehicle being operated in connection with the ordinance violation for which the citation is issued and for the disposal of impounded vehicles operated in violation of the ordinance.	To Ethics Reform and Govt. Operations Com	Monitor
SB 342 Lassa (R)	Small Claims	Would increase jurisdictional limit in small claims actions from \$5,000 to \$10,000 (Companion bill to AB 579)	To Judiciary Com	Monitor
SB 355 A. Lasee (R)	Inattentive Driving	Would prohibit the use of electronic text messaging devices while operating a motor vehicle	To Transportation Com	Monitor
SB 368 Law Revision Committee	Double Bottom Trucks	Corrects an error in Act 363 and clarifies that the length exception allowing double bottoms applies to highways designated by DOT	To Transportation Com	Monitor
SB 374 Lehman (D)	Insurance	Expands the financial responsibility law by requiring compulsory financial responsibility by an insurance policy with single accident amount of \$25,000 for a single person, \$50,000 for more than one person and \$10,000 for property damage. In lieu of an insurance policy a person may maintain a deposit of \$60,000 in cash or securities with the DOT.	To Transportation Com	Support
SB-380 Kreitlow (D)	Motor Fuels	This would exact a penalty on a refiner, wholesaler, and retailer of diesel fuel if the percentage of renewable fuel sold is less than a certain percentage of all motor vehicle fuels. (Companion Bill to AB 682	To Com on Biofuels & Sustainable Energy	Oppose

1-15-08

If you would like copies of any of the aforementioned bills or Wisconsin Acts, please contact Tom Howells at the association office, (608) 833-8200. Comments on any these legislative proposals are both welcomed and encouraged.