

**WISCONSIN MOTOR CARRIERS ASSOCIATION
LEGISLATIVE TRACKING REPORT
2011-2012**

ASSEMBLY BILLS INTRODUCED

*SS indicates Special Session

Bill No. – Author	Title	Description	Action	Position
Joint Resolution 31 Petrowski (R)	Transportation Fund	Currently, the revenues generated by use of the state transportation system may be deposited into any fund as provided by law. This proposed constitutional amendment, proposed to the 2011 legislature on first consideration, requires that such revenues be deposited into a transportation fund, and requires the legislature to create such a fund and a department of transportation	Passed Transportation Com – To Rules	Support
AB-1 Williams (R)	Jobs Tax Credit	Would allow an employer to claim the credits for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2010, and refunds will be paid beginning on July 1, 2011.	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 88	Support
*SS AB-1 Ott (R)	Tort Reform	See SS SB-1 enacted as 2011 WI Act 2	To Judiciary Com	Support
AB-3 Endsley (R)	Jobs Creation	Would provide tax incentives for job creation, providing an exemption from emergency rule procedures, and granting rulemaking authority	To Com. On Jobs, Small Bus. & Economy	Support
AB-4 Nygren (R)	Auto Insurance	Would decreases the minimum limits required under a policy that is acceptable proof of financial responsibility to \$25,000 for bodily injury to or death of one person, \$50,000 for bodily injury to or death of more than one person, and \$10,000 for property damage. Does not eliminate the mandatory motor vehicle insurance requirements passed in the last budget bill.	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 14	Monitor
*SS AB-5 August (R)	Taxes	Would prohibits either house of the legislature from passing a bill that increases the rate of the state sales tax or that increases any of the rates of the income tax or franchise tax unless approved by two thirds majority. The prohibition would not apply if the legislature authorizes a statewide advisory referendum on a tax increase that is passed by the voters.	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 9	Monitor
AB-7 Stone (R)	Voter ID	would require a voter who attempts to register or to vote at the polls on election day to present a valid Wisconsin driver's license, a current ID issued to the person by a U.S. uniformed service, or a Wisconsin ID issued the DOT.	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 23	Monitor
*SS AB-7 Vos (R)	Small Business Taxes	This bill creates an income and franchise tax credit for small businesses. Under the bill, a business that has less than \$500,000 in gross receipts in the taxable year may claim as a credit a percentage of the taxpayer's tax liability based on the amount of the gross receipts that exceed \$250,000. If the business has no more than \$250,000 in gross receipts in the taxable year, the business may claim a credit equal to 15 percent of its tax liability. Under the bill, the taxpayer does not receive a refund, but may apply any remaining credit amounts to subsequent taxable years.	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 5	Support

*SS AB-8 Tiffany (R)	Regulatory Reform	Makes various changes relating to the authority of a state agency to create administrative rules and requires gubernatorial approval of proposed rules.	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 21	Support
*SS AB-11 Assembly Org Com	Budget (Collective Bargaining)	Budget deficit repair	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 10	Monitor
AB- 40	Budget	2011-2012 Biennial Budge Bill (Date of Publication – June 30, 2011)	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 32	Monitor
AB-50 Nygren (R)	Motor Carrier Liability	(See companion bill SB 41)	To Transportation Com	Support
AB-55 Pridemore (R)	Failure to Yield Violations	Provides that if a person is convicted of a failure-to-yield violation that results in bodily harm, great bodily harm, or death, DOT must suspend the person's operating privilege. Person must attend traffic safety school to reinstate driving privilege.	Passed Assembly – To Sen Trans Com	Monitor
AB-64 Petrowski (R)	OS/OW Permit	Would create an exception to the indivisible load requirement for modular home permits	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 57	Monitor
AB-80 Krusic (R)	Driver's License	Would increase the penalties for operation without a license or a suspended license who in the course of violation causes great bodily harm to a person	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 113	Monitor
AB 88 Petrowski (R)	Overweight Permit	Overweight permits of transporting granular roofing material. Would eliminate 8/1/2011 expiration of permits and allow DOT to continue issuing.	Passed Transportation Com – To Rules	Monitor
AB-106 Ballweg (R)	Small Claims	Would increase the jurisdictional amount of \$5,000 to \$10,000 for small claims actions.	To Judiciary Com Public hearing held	Support
AB-131 Kerkman (R)	Cellular Phone Use Prohibition	Would prohibit the driver of a school bus from using a cell phone while loading or unloading passenger except in an emergency.	To Transportation Com – Public hearing held	Monitor
AB-189 Brooks (R)	Insurance Claims	Would prohibit an insurer from requiring a certain vendor for repairing a motor vehicle, requiring adjusters to inspect motor vehicle damage, and insurance payments for motor vehicle repair costs.	To Jobs, Economy and Small Business Com – withdrawn from Com	Support
AB-206 Bies (R)	Inattentive Driving	Modifies and expands the statutory definition of inattentive driving.	Passed Trans Com – To Rules	Monitor
AB-207 Ott (R)	OWI Penalties	Expands the penalties for driving a vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicant.	To Trans Com	Monitor
AB-208 Ott (R)	OWI Penalties	Expands the penalties for driving a vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicant.	To Trans Com	Monitor
AB-248 Petrowski (R)	OW Permit	Provides for an annual permit for transporting hay or straw.	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 58	Monitor
AB-252 Petrowski (R)	Ag Hauling	Would extend the annual date for the weight exception increasing the gross weight for trucks hauling agricultural commodities from Nov. 30 to Dec. 31.	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 52	Support
AB-253 Petrowski (R)	Over Length Permits	Eliminates the permit requirement for hauling over length loads of poles, pipes, girders, etc. for loads not exceeding 60' for a single vehicle and 120' for combination vehicles.	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 53	Support
AB-254 Petrowski (R)	Truck Length	Would increase the overall truck length from 40' to 45'.	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 54	Support
AB-266 Honadel (D)	Lead Acid Batteries	Would a person who sells a lead acid battery to a consumer to charge a deposit of not less than \$5. The bill also changes terminology in the law relating to the sale of lead acid batteries and defines the term "deposit" for the purposes of that law.	To Consumer Protection Com	Monitor

AB-267 Petrowski (R)	Three vehicle combinations	Would allow operation of a three-vehicle combination consisting of towing vehicle, recreational vehicle and another recreational vehicle for recreational use without a permit.	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 59	Monitor
AB-295 Knudson (R)	Local Registration Fee	Requires that the imposition of a local motor vehicle registration fee must be ratified by a county or a municipal referendum before the it may take effect.	To Transportation Com – Public hearing held	Monitor
AB-300 Ott (R)	Registration Plates	Allows DOT is issue sticker for registration plates of a dealer, manufacturer or transporter.	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 90	Support
AB-304 Tiffany (R)	Trailer Registration	Would create a weight registration category trailers/semitrailers of 12,000 – 14,000 lbs.	Passed Trans Com – To Joint Finance	Support
AB-305 Petrowski (R)	Overweight Permits	Allows DOT to issue overweight permits for six-axle vehicles transporting “sealed loads” in international trade.	Passed Transportation Com – To Rules	Support
AB-306 Petrowski (R)	Overweight Permits	Allows DOT to issue overweight permits for six-axle vehicles transporting agricultural products from or to a farm or field to a storage or initial processing facility	Passed Transportation Com – To Rules	Support
AB-307 Petrowski	Suspension of License and Registration	Would suspend the license and registration of a person subject to a judgment for damages in excess of \$500 unless satisfied or discharged	Passed Transportation Com – To Rules	Monitor
AB-383 Steineke	Oil Absorbent Materials	Would replace the general prohibition on disposing oil absorbent materials that contain waste oil in a solid waste disposal facility with a narrower prohibition. Under this bill, a person may not dispose of such materials in a solid waste disposal facility unless free-flowing oil has been drained from the materials and the materials are not hazardous waste.	To Natural Resources Com – Public hearing held – amendment offered	Support
AB-388 Mursau (R)	Overweight Permits	DOT may issue annual permits to transport raw forest products up to a gross weight not exceeding 98,000 pounds if the vehicle combination has six or more axles and meets other criteria (RS permit). Under this bill, an RS permit may not contain any condition or limitation imposed by DOT in connection with the thawing of frozen highways that are not state trunk highways or connecting highways, except that the operation of the vehicle under the RS permit is subject to posted weight limits on these local highways	To Transportation Com – Public hearing held	Monitor

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SENATE BILLS INTRODUCED

Bill No. – Author	Title	Description	Action	Position
Joint Resolution 23 Hopper (R)	Transportation Fund	Currently, the revenues generated by use of the state transportation system may be deposited into any fund as provided by law. This proposed constitutional amendment, proposed to the 2011 legislature on first consideration, requires that such revenues be deposited into a transportation fund, and requires the legislature to create such a fund and a department of transportation	Enrolled	Support
*SS SB-1 Zipperer (R)	Tort Reform	Would make several changes to current law regarding civil actions for negligence in long term care facilities product liability, actions in strict liability, punitive damage awards, and awards for defending a frivolous lawsuit.	Enacted 2011 WI Act 2	Support

SB-5 Hopper (R)	Tax Credits	Currently, employers may claim tax credits based on the wages paid to new employees and on the costs incurred by the employer for certain training activities. If the amount of the credits exceeds the employer's tax liability, the state issues a refund. The credits apply to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2010, but if any employer is owed a refund, the employer will not receive it until after December 31, 2011. Under this bill, refunds will be paid beginning on July 1, 2011.	Passed Senate – To Assembly Rules	Support
*SS SB-5 Vukmir (R)	Taxes	Would require a two-thirds majority for passage of tax increase legislation (see SS SB-5 2011 WI Act 5)	Passed Judiciary Com Referred then withdrawn from Joint Finance Com. To Sen Organization Com	Monitor
*SS SB-7 Moulton (R)	Small Business Taxes	Companion bill to SS AB-7	Passed Small Business Com and Joint Finance Com	Support
SB-7 Lassee (R)	Auto Insurance	See companion bill AB-4	Passed Senate To Assembly Rules Com	Support
SB-8 Olsen (R)	Family Medical Leave	Makes various changes to the Wisconsin family and medical leave law to conform that law to the federal family and medical leave law.	To Labor Com	Support
*SS-SB-8 Sen Org Com	Regulatory Reform	See Companion Bill SS AB-8	Passed Econ Devel Com.	Support
SS-SB-11 Sen Org Com	Budget	Budget deficit repair	Passed Joint Finance Com	Monitor
SB-23 Vukmir (R)	Family Medical Leave	In order to seek statewide uniformity on family medical leave for employees, this bill preempts local units of government from enacting and administering an ordinance pertaining to family medical leave that is not consistent with the provisions set out in the bill.	Enacted as 2011 W Act 16	Support
SB-32 Moulton (R)	Places of Employment	Prohibits a local unit of government from enacting or enforcing an ordinance that establishes minimum standards for the construction, repair, and maintenance of places of employment and public buildings unless that ordinance strictly conforms to the rules promulgated by the Dept. of Commerce	To Judiciary Com	Monitor
SB-41 Lazich (R)	Motor Carrier Liability	Prohibits any provision of a transportation contract requiring a motor carrier to indemnify or hold harmless against liability for loss or damage due negligence or intentional acts or omissions of the shipper or its employees. (See companion bill AB-50)	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 33	Support
SB-85 Zipperer (R)	Retail Theft of Services	Would make a person who obtains a service and who intentionally refuses to pay for the service guilty of retail theft.	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 110	Support
SB-146 Coggs (D)	Lead Wheel Weights	Prohibits the installation, when replacing or balancing a tire on a motor vehicle, of a wheel weight or other wheel balancing product that contains lead,	To Trans Com	Oppose

SB-158 Kedzie (R)	Occupational DL	Would remove the immediate eligibility for those persons whose suspension or revocation is due to while operating under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance, and delays their eligibility to receive an occupational license until 15 days after the date of the suspension or revocation.	To Trans Com	Monitor
SB-181 Harsdorf (R)	OW Permit	Provides for an annual permit for transporting hay or straw. (See companion bill AB-248)	Passed Trans Com	Monitor
SB-187 Wirch (D)	Minimum Wage	Would increase the current minimum wage for employees generally from \$7.25 per hour to \$7.60 per hour. Raises minimum wage for other categories of employees as well	To Labor Com	Monitor
SB-189 Lazich (R)	Over Length Permits	Eliminates the permit requirement for hauling over length loads of poles, pipes, girders, etc. for loads not exceeding 60' for a single vehicle and 120' for combination vehicles. (See companion bill AB-253)	Passed Trans Com	Support
SB-190 Lazich (R)	Truck Length	Would increase the overall truck length from 40' to 45'. (See companion bill AB-254)	Passed Trans Com	Support
SB-211 Olsen (R)	Registration Plates	Allows DOT to issue sticker for registration plates of a dealer, manufacturer or transporter. (See AB-300)	Passed Trans Com	Support
SB-222	Overweight Permits	Allows DOT to issue overweight permits for six-axle vehicles transporting "sealed loads" in international trade. (See companion bill AB-305)	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 55	Support
SB223	Overweight Permits	Allows DOT to issue overweight permits for six-axle vehicles transporting agricultural products from or to a farm or field to a storage or initial processing facility (See companion bill AB-306)	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 56	Support
SB-314 Olsen	Fuel	This bill offers options for civil redress for a fuel retailer who suffers a loss as the result of a person absconding without paying for fuel.	To Trans Com	Support
SB-379 Kedzie (R)	OWI	This bill prohibits a person whose operating privileges have been suspended or revoked for a violation relating to operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated from purchasing or leasing a motor vehicle while his or her operating privileges are suspended or revoked. If a person occupational license, that person may purchase or lease a motor vehicle as long as the license is in effect.	To Judiciary Com	Monitor

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All bills and acts may be accessed on line at <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/>. Comments on any these legislative proposals are both welcomed and encouraged. Please contact Tom Howells at the association office, (608) 833-8200 Ext. 16.