



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-0057/1
ZDW:wlj:kf

2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 206

May 7, 2015 – Introduced by Representatives VORPAGEL, RIPP, BALLWEG, KITCHENS, MURSAU, A. OTT, STEFFEN and SUBECK, cosponsored by Senators PETROWSKI, GUDEX, MARKLEIN, OLSEN, HARRIS DODD, MILLER, LASSA and NASS. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

1 **AN ACT to repeal** 346.38 (intro.) (except 346.38 (title)); **to amend** 346.23, 346.38
2 (1) and 346.38 (2); and **to create** 340.01 (43c) and 340.01 (43d) of the statutes;
3 **relating to:** pedestrian traffic control signals.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, when pedestrian traffic control signals are in place, pedestrians may cross a roadway when the signal exhibits the word “Walk.” When the signal exhibits the words “Don’t Walk,” pedestrians may not begin to cross the roadway but may complete a crossing begun while the signal exhibited the word “Walk.”

This bill defines a “pedestrian signal authorizing crossing” as a signal displaying “Walk,” a walking person symbol, or any other symbol approved under the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* adopted by the Department of Transportation (DOT). Under this bill, the pedestrian behavior currently allowed when facing a “Walk” signal is allowed when facing a pedestrian signal authorizing crossing. This bill also defines a “pedestrian signal limiting crossing” as a signal displaying “Don’t Walk,” an upraised hand symbol, or any other symbol approved under the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* adopted by DOT. Under this bill, the pedestrian behavior currently proscribed or allowed when facing a “Don’t

ASSEMBLY BILL 206

Walk” signal is proscribed or allowed when facing a pedestrian signal limiting crossing.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 340.01 (43c) of the statutes is created to read:

2 340.01 (**43c**) “Pedestrian signal authorizing crossing” means a traffic control
3 signal for pedestrians that displays the word “Walk,” the symbol of a walking person,
4 or any other symbol approved for this purpose under the manual on uniform traffic
5 control devices adopted by the department under s. 84.02 (4) (e).

6 **SECTION 2.** 340.01 (43d) of the statutes is created to read:

7 340.01 (**43d**) “Pedestrian signal limiting crossing” means a traffic control
8 signal for pedestrians that displays the words “Don’t Walk,” the symbol of an
9 upraised hand, or any other symbol approved for this purpose under the manual on
10 uniform traffic control devices adopted by the department under s. 84.02 (4) (e).

11 **SECTION 3.** 346.23 of the statutes is amended to read:

12 **346.23 Crossing controlled intersection or crosswalk.** (1) At an
13 intersection or crosswalk where traffic is controlled by traffic control signals or by a
14 traffic officer, the operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian,
15 or to a person who is riding a bicycle or electric personal assistive mobility device in
16 a manner which is consistent with the safe use of the crosswalk by pedestrians, who
17 has started to cross the highway on a green or “Walk” signal or a pedestrian signal
18 authorizing crossing and in all other cases pedestrians, bicyclists, and riders of
19 electric personal assistive mobility devices shall yield the right-of-way to vehicles
20 lawfully proceeding directly ahead on a green signal. No operator of a vehicle
21 proceeding ahead on a green signal may begin a turn at a controlled intersection or

ASSEMBLY BILL 206

1 crosswalk when a pedestrian, bicyclist, or rider of an electric personal assistive
2 mobility device crossing in the crosswalk on a green or “Walk” signal or a pedestrian
3 signal authorizing crossing would be endangered or interfered with in any way. The
4 rules stated in this subsection are modified at intersections or crosswalks on divided
5 highways or highways provided with safety zones in the manner and to the extent
6 stated in sub. (2).

7 (2) At intersections or crosswalks on divided highways or highways provided
8 with safety zones where traffic is controlled by traffic control signals or by a traffic
9 officer, the operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian, bicyclist,
10 or rider of an electric personal assistive mobility device who has started to cross the
11 roadway either from the near curb or shoulder or from the center dividing strip or
12 a safety zone with the green or “Walk” signal or a pedestrian signal authorizing
13 crossing in the favor of the pedestrian, bicyclist, or rider of an electric personal
14 assistive mobility device.

15 **SECTION 4.** 346.38 (intro.) (except 346.38 (title)) of the statutes is repealed.

16 **SECTION 5.** 346.38 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

17 346.38 (1) WALK. A pedestrian, or a person riding a bicycle or electric personal
18 assistive mobility device in a manner which is consistent with the safe use of the
19 crossing by pedestrians, facing a “Walk” signal pedestrian signal authorizing
20 crossing may proceed across the roadway or other vehicular crossing in the direction
21 of the signal and the operators of all vehicles shall yield the right-of-way to the
22 pedestrian, bicyclist, or electric personal assistive mobility device rider.

23 **SECTION 6.** 346.38 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

24 346.38 (2) DON'T WALK. No pedestrian, bicyclist, or rider of an electric personal
25 assistive mobility device may start to cross the roadway or other vehicular crossing

ASSEMBLY BILL 206**SECTION 6**

1 in the direction of a ~~“Don’t Walk” signal~~ pedestrian signal limiting crossing,
2 regardless of whether the signal is steady or flashing, but any pedestrian, bicyclist,
3 or rider of an electric personal assistive mobility device who has partially completed
4 crossing on the ~~“Walk” signal~~ pedestrian signal authorizing crossing may proceed to
5 a sidewalk or safety zone while a ~~“Don’t Walk” signal~~ pedestrian signal limiting
6 crossing is showing.

7 (END)