

State of Wisconsin



2015 Assembly Bill 558

Date of enactment: April 15, 2016
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2015 WISCONSIN ACT 360

AN ACT to repeal 86.195 (2) (am); to amend 86.195 (5) (b), 348.15 (3) (bg), 348.15 (3) (br), 348.15 (3) (bv), 348.15 (3) (e), 348.15 (9) (e) 3., 348.17 (3), 348.17 (5) (b), 348.175, 348.19 (2) (b), 348.19 (4), 348.27 (3), 348.27 (4), 348.27 (9m) (a) 1., 348.27 (9m) (a) 4., 348.27 (9r), 348.27 (10), 348.27 (15) (a) and 348.27 (19) (c) 4.; and to create 348.01 (2) (bc) of the statutes; relating to: size and weight limits of vehicles operating on the I 39 and I 41 corridors and highway information signs.

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

SECTION 1g. 86.195 (2) (am) of the statutes is repealed.

SECTION 1h. 86.195 (5) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

86.195 (5) (b) *Number of signs permitted.* No more than ~~one~~ 4 specific information ~~sign~~ signs for each category of motorist service may be erected along an approach to an interchange or intersection. No specific information sign may contain more than 6 business signs.

SECTION 1s. 348.01 (2) (bc) of the statutes is created to read:

348.01 (2) (bc) "I 39 corridor" means that portion of I 39 between I 94 near the city of Portage and STH 29 south of the city of Wausau.

SECTION 2. 348.15 (3) (bg) of the statutes, as affected by 2015 Wisconsin Act 55, is amended to read:

348.15 (3) (bg) In the case of a vehicle or combination of vehicles transporting exclusively milk from the point of production to the primary market and the return of dairy supplies and dairy products from such primary market to the farm, the gross weight imposed on the highway by the wheels of any one axle may not exceed 21,000

pounds or, for 2 axles 8 or less feet apart, 37,000 pounds or, for groups of 3 or more consecutive axles more than 9 feet apart, a weight of 2,000 pounds more than is shown in par. (c), but not to exceed 80,000 pounds. This paragraph does not apply to the national system of interstate and defense highways, except for the I 41 corridor and that portion of I 39 between USH 51 and I 90/94 I 39 corridor and the I 41 corridor.

SECTION 3. 348.15 (3) (br) of the statutes, as affected by 2015 Wisconsin Act 55, is amended to read:

348.15 (3) (br) In the case of a vehicle or combination of vehicles transporting exclusively peeled or unpeeled forest products cut crosswise or in the case of a vehicle or combination of vehicles transporting exclusively scrap metal, the gross weight imposed on the highway by the wheels of any one axle may not exceed 21,500 pounds or, for 2 axles 8 or less feet apart, 37,000 pounds or, for groups of 3 or more consecutive axles more than 9 feet apart, a weight of 4,000 pounds more than is shown in par. (c), but not to exceed 80,000 pounds. This paragraph does not apply to the national system of interstate and defense highways, except for the I 41 corridor and that portion of I 39 between USH 51 and I 90/94 I 39 corridor and the I 41 corridor.

* Section 991.11, WISCONSIN STATUTES: Effective date of acts. "Every act and every portion of an act enacted by the legislature over the governor's partial veto which does not expressly prescribe the time when it takes effect shall take effect on the day after its date of publication."

SECTION 4. 348.15 (3) (bv) of the statutes, as affected by [2015 Wisconsin Act 55](#), is amended to read:

348.15 (3) (bv) In the case of a vehicle or combination of vehicles used primarily for the transportation of septage, as defined in s. 281.49 (1) (m), the gross weight imposed on the highway by the wheels of any one axle may not exceed 21,500 pounds or, for 2 axles 8 or less feet apart, 37,000 pounds or, for groups of 3 or more consecutive axles more than 9 feet apart, a weight of 4,000 pounds more than is shown in par. (c) or, for groups of 4 or more consecutive axles more than 10 feet apart, a weight of 6,000 pounds more than is shown in par. (c) or, for groups of 5 or more consecutive axles more than 14 feet apart, a weight of 7,000 pounds more than is shown in par. (c), but not to exceed 80,000 pounds. This paragraph does not apply to the national system of interstate and defense highways, except for the ~~I-41 corridor and that portion of I-39 between USH 51 and I-90/94~~ I-39 corridor and the I-41 corridor.

SECTION 5. 348.15 (3) (e) of the statutes, as affected by [2015 Wisconsin Act 55](#), is amended to read:

348.15 (3) (e) Notwithstanding pars. (a), (b) and (c), in the case of a vehicle or combination of vehicles transporting exclusively livestock, the gross weight imposed on the highway by the wheels of any one axle or axle group may exceed the applicable weight limitation specified in pars. (a), (b) and (c) by 15% if the gross weight of the vehicle or combination of vehicles does not exceed the maximum gross weight specified for that vehicle or combination of vehicles under par. (c). This paragraph does not apply to the national system of interstate and defense highways, except for the ~~I-41 corridor and that portion of I-39 between USH 51 and I-90/94~~ I-39 corridor and the I-41 corridor.

SECTION 8. 348.15 (9) (e) 3. of the statutes, as affected by [2015 Wisconsin Acts 15](#) and [55](#), is amended to read:

348.15 (9) (e) 3. Subdivisions 1., 2., and 4. do not apply on any highway that is posted with a weight limitation as provided in s. 348.17 (1). ~~Subdivisions 1. and 2. do~~ does not apply on any highway that is a part of the national system of interstate and defense highways, except for the I-41 corridor. Subdivision 2. does not apply on any highway that is a part of the national system of interstate and defense highways, except for an implement of husbandry operated on the I-41 corridor. Subdivision 4. does not apply on any highway that is a part of the national system of interstate and defense highways.

SECTION 10. 348.17 (3) of the statutes, as affected by [2015 Wisconsin Act 55](#), is amended to read:

348.17 (3) During an energy emergency, after consultation with the department of administration, the department may waive the divisible load limitation of s. 348.25 (4) and authorize for a period not to exceed 30 days the operation of overweight vehicles having a registered gross weight of 50,000 pounds or more and carrying

energy resources or fuel or milk commodities designated by the governor or a designee, regardless of the highways involved, to conserve energy. Such authorization may only allow weights not more than 10% greater than the gross axle and axle combination weight limitations, and not more than 15% greater than the gross vehicle weight limitations under ss. 348.15 and 348.16. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to permit the department to waive the requirements of ss. 348.05 to 348.07. This subsection does not apply to vehicles on highways designated as parts of the national system of interstate and defense highways, except for the ~~I-41 corridor and that portion of I-39 between USH 51 and I-90/94~~ I-39 corridor and the I-41 corridor.

SECTION 11. 348.17 (5) (b) of the statutes, as affected by [2015 Wisconsin Act 55](#), is amended to read:

348.17 (5) (b) This subsection does not apply to the national system of interstate and defense highways, except for the ~~I-41 corridor and that portion of I-39 between USH 51 and I-90/94~~ I-39 corridor and the I-41 corridor.

SECTION 12. 348.175 of the statutes, as affected by [2015 Wisconsin Act 55](#), is amended to read:

348.175 Seasonal operation of vehicles hauling peeled or unpeeled forest products cut crosswise or abrasives or salt for highway winter maintenance. The transportation of peeled or unpeeled forest products cut crosswise or of abrasives or salt for highway winter maintenance in excess of gross weight limitations under s. 348.15 shall be permitted during the winter months when the highways are so frozen that no damage may result thereto by reason of such transportation. If at any time any person is so transporting such products or abrasives or salt upon a class "A" highway in such frozen condition then that person may likewise use a class "B" highway without other limitation, except that chains and other traction devices are prohibited on class "A" highways but such chains and devices may be used in cases of necessity. On the first day that conditions warrant their determination of such frozen condition and freedom of damage to such highways by transportation, the officers or agencies in charge of maintenance of highways shall declare particular highways, or highways within areas of the state, as eligible for increased weight limitations, and each declaration shall be effective as of 12:01 a.m. on the 2nd day following the declaration. Such declaration shall include the maximum weight on each axle, combination of axles and the gross weight allowed. Any person transporting any such product over any highway of this state under this section is liable to the maintaining authority for any damage caused to such highway. This section does not apply to the national system of interstate and defense highways, except for the ~~I-41 corridor and that portion of I-39 between USH 51 and I-90/94~~ I-39 corridor and the I-41 corridor.

SECTION 13. 348.19 (2) (b) of the statutes, as affected by [2015 Wisconsin Act 55](#), is amended to read:

348.19 (2) (b) If upon weighing a vehicle transporting livestock a traffic officer determines that the gross weight of the vehicle exceeds the limitations imposed by s. 348.15, 348.16 or 348.17 (3) or a limitation posted as provided in s. 348.17 (1), and if the point of apprehension is 15 miles or less from the destination of the vehicle, the traffic officer shall permit the operator of the vehicle to proceed to such destination without requiring the vehicle to be reloaded or unloaded as provided in par. (a). This paragraph does not apply to vehicles transporting livestock on the national system of interstate and defense highways, except for the ~~I 41 corridor and that portion of I 39 between USH 51 and I 90/94~~ I 39 corridor and the I 41 corridor.

SECTION 14. 348.19 (4) of the statutes, as affected by [2015 Wisconsin Act 55](#), is amended to read:

348.19 (4) Subsection (1) (b) shall not apply to vehicles transporting peeled or unpeeled forest products on the national, interstate or defense highway systems, except for the ~~I 41 corridor and that portion of I 39 between USH 51 and I 90/94~~ I 39 corridor and the I 41 corridor.

SECTION 15. 348.27 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

348.27 (3) GENERAL PERMITS. For good cause in specified instances for specified construction or maintenance operations or for a specified period, the officer or agency in charge of maintenance of a highway may allow loads exceeding the size or weight limitations imposed by this chapter to be hauled on such highway. No such officer or agency shall issue such permits for use of a highway the cost of maintenance of which is paid by a unit of government other than the unit of government which such officer or agency represents. A permit issued by the department under this subsection may authorize transportation of a divisible load on the I 41 corridor but may not authorize transportation of a divisible load on any other interstate highway.

SECTION 16. 348.27 (4) of the statutes, as affected by [2015 Wisconsin Act 55](#), is amended to read:

348.27 (4) INDUSTRIAL INTERPLANT PERMITS. The department may issue, to industries and to their agent motor carriers owning and operating oversize vehicles in connection with interplant, and from plant to state line, operations in this state, annual or consecutive month permits for the operation of such vehicles over designated routes, provided that such permit shall not be issued under this section to agent motor carriers or, except for the ~~I 41 corridor and that portion of I 39 between USH 51 and I 90/94~~ I 39 corridor and the I 41 corridor, from plant to state line for vehicles or loads of width exceeding 102 inches upon routes of the national system of interstate and defense highways. If the routes desired to be used by the applicant involve city or village streets or county or

town highways, the application shall be accompanied by a written statement of route approval by the officer in charge of maintenance of the highway in question.

SECTION 17. 348.27 (9m) (a) 1. of the statutes, as affected by [2015 Wisconsin Act 55](#), is amended to read:

348.27 (9m) (a) 1. Raw forest products or of fruits or vegetables from field to storage or processing facilities in vehicles or vehicle combinations that exceed the maximum gross weight limitations under s. 348.15 (3) (c) by not more than 10,000 pounds. A permit under this subdivision is not valid on highways designated as part of the national system of interstate and defense highways, except on the ~~I 41 corridor and on I 39 between STH 29 south of Wausau and the I 90/94 interchange near Portage in Marathon, Portage, Waushara, Marquette and Columbia counties~~ I 39 corridor and the I 41 corridor.

SECTION 17m. 348.27 (9m) (a) 4. of the statutes, as affected by [2015 Wisconsin Act 55](#), is amended to read:

348.27 (9m) (a) 4. Raw forest products in vehicle combinations that exceed the maximum gross weight limitations under s. 348.15 (3) (c) by not more than 18,000 pounds if the vehicle combination has 6 or more axles and the gross weight imposed on the highway by the wheels of any one axle of the vehicle combination does not exceed 18,000 pounds, except that the gross weight imposed on the highway by the wheels of any steering axle on the power unit may not exceed the greater of 13,000 pounds or the manufacturer's rated capacity, but not to exceed 18,000 pounds. Notwithstanding s. 348.15 (8), any axle of a vehicle combination that does not impose on the highway at least 8 percent of the gross weight of the vehicle combination may not be counted as an axle for the purposes of this subdivision. Subject to par. (c), a permit under this subdivision is not valid on any interstate highway designated under s. 84.29 (2) except for the ~~I 41 corridor and that portion of the I 39 corridor between STH 34 in the town of Knowlton and STH 29 south of the city of Wausau~~, any highway or bridge with a posted weight limitation that is less than the vehicle combination's gross weight, and any part of the state trunk highway system that the department has designated by rule as a route on which a permit issued under this subsection is not valid.

SECTION 18. 348.27 (9r) of the statutes, as affected by [2015 Wisconsin Act 55](#), is amended to read:

348.27 (9r) TRANSPORTATION OF SCRAP. The department may issue an annual or consecutive month permit for the transportation of metallic or nonmetallic scrap for the purpose of recycling or processing on a vehicle or combination of vehicles which exceeds statutory weight or length limitations and for the return of the vehicle or combination of vehicles when empty. This subsection does not apply to the transportation of scrap on highways designated as part of the national system of interstate and defense highways, except for the ~~I 41 corridor and that~~

portion of I 39 between USH 51 and I 90/94 I 39 corridor and the I 41 corridor.

SECTION 19. 348.27 (10) of the statutes, as affected by 2015 Wisconsin Act 55, is amended to read:

348.27 (10) TRANSPORTATION OF GRAIN OR COAL OR IRON. The department may issue annual or consecutive month permits for the transportation of loads of grain, as defined in s. 126.01 (13), coal, iron ore concentrates or alloyed iron on a vehicle or a combination of 2 or more vehicles that exceeds statutory weight or length limitations and for the return of the empty vehicle or combination of vehicles over any class of highway for a distance not to exceed 5 miles from the Wisconsin state line. If the roads desired to be used by the applicant involve streets or highways other than those within the state trunk highway system, the application shall be accompanied by a written statement of route approval by the officer in charge of maintenance of the other highway. This subsection does not apply to highways designated as part of the national system of interstate and defense highways, except for the I 41 corridor.

SECTION 20. 348.27 (15) (a) of the statutes, as affected by 2015 Wisconsin Act 55, is amended to read:

348.27 (15) MULTIPLE TRIP PERMITS. (a) The depart-

ment shall issue to qualifying applicants multiple trip permits for the transportation of granular roofing material in vehicles or vehicle combinations that exceed the maximum gross weight limitations under s. 348.15 (3) (c) by not more than 10,000 pounds. A permit issued under this subsection does not authorize the operation of any vehicle or vehicle combination at a maximum gross weight in excess of 90,000 pounds. A permit under this subsection may be issued only by the department, regardless of the highways to be used. A permit under this subsection is not valid on highways designated as part of the national system of interstate and defense highways except that a permit may be issued that is valid on the I 41 corridor or on not more than 2.5 miles of any state trunk highway if such issuance of the permit is consistent with federal law.

SECTION 21. 348.27 (19) (c) 4. of the statutes, as affected by 2015 Wisconsin Act 55, is amended to read:

348.27 (19) (c) 4. A no-fee permit issued under subd. 1. or 1m. is not valid on any highway that is a part of the national system of interstate and defense highways, except for the I 41 corridor. A no-fee permit issued under subd. 1m. is not valid on any highway that is a part of the national system of interstate and defense highways.