



2013 SENATE BILL 341

October 14, 2013 – Introduced by Senators PETROWSKI, COWLES, GROTHMAN, KEDZIE, SCHULTZ and TIFFANY, cosponsored by Representatives RIPP, BROOKS, BEWLEY, CLARK, CZAJA, DANOU, KAHL, T. LARSON, MILROY, MURSAU, NYGREN, A. OTT, SMITH, SPIROS, VRUWINK and WILLIAMS. Referred to Committee on Transportation, Public Safety, and Veterans and Military Affairs.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 348.07 (2) (k) and 348.10 (1); and *to create* 348.05 (2) (m) of
2 the statutes; **relating to:** the maximum width of, and projecting loads on,
3 vehicles carrying poles, pipe, girders, and similar materials.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, no person may operate on a highway any vehicle or combination of vehicles that exceeds certain statutory limits on size, weight, or load unless an exception applies or the person possesses a permit issued by the Department of Transportation or local highway authorities. Current law generally prohibits a person from operating on a highway, without a permit, any vehicle having a total outside width in excess of eight feet six inches. Current law also generally prohibits a person from operating on a highway any single vehicle with an overall length in excess of 45 feet or any combination of two vehicles with an overall length in excess of 70 feet. Under one exception, a person may operate, without a permit, a single vehicle with an overall length not exceeding 60 feet, and a two-vehicle combination with an overall length not exceeding 120 feet, if the vehicle or vehicle combination is used by a pipeline company or operator, public service corporation, municipal utility, or cooperative association (collectively a “utility”), or by a motor carrier operating under contract with a utility, for transportation of poles, pipe, girders, and similar materials.

Also under current law, with limited exceptions, no person may operate on a highway, without a permit, any vehicle or vehicle combination carrying a load extending more than three feet beyond the front of the vehicle.

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This bill allows a vehicle or vehicle combination used by a utility, or by a motor carrier operating under contract with a utility, for transportation of poles, pipe, girders, and similar materials to, without a permit: 1) have a total outside width not exceeding nine feet; and 2) carry a load extending not more than ten feet beyond the front bumper of the vehicle or foremost vehicle in the vehicle combination.

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

1 **SECTION 1.** 348.05 (2) (m) of the statutes is created to read:

2 348.05 (2) (m) Nine feet for a vehicle or vehicle combination used by a pipeline
3 company or operator, public service corporation, municipal utility, or cooperative
4 association described in s. 196.01 (5) (b) 1., or by a motor carrier operating under
5 contract with a pipeline company or operator, public service corporation, municipal
6 utility, or cooperative association described in s. 196.01 (5) (b) 1., for transportation
7 of poles, pipe, girders and similar materials.

8 **SECTION 2.** 348.07 (2) (k) of the statutes is amended to read:

9 348.07 (2) (k) Sixty feet for a single vehicle, and 120 feet for a 2-vehicle
10 combination, used by a pipeline company or operator, public service corporation,
11 municipal utility, or cooperative association described in s. 196.01 (5) (b) 1., or by a
12 motor carrier operating under contract with a pipeline company or operator, public
13 service corporation, municipal utility, or cooperative association described in s.
14 196.01 (5) (b) 1., for transportation of poles, pipe, girders and similar materials. A
15 vehicle or vehicle combination described in this paragraph may, in addition to the
16 vehicle length specified in this paragraph, carry a load extending not more than 10
17 feet beyond the front bumper of the vehicle or foremost vehicle in the vehicle
18 combination.

19 **SECTION 3.** 348.10 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

