



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2005 Wisconsin Act 345
[2005 Assembly Bill 864]

**Transporting Unloaded Firearms at
Sport Shooting Ranges**

The current statutes contain broad prohibitions on placing, possessing, or transporting a firearm in or on a vehicle. [See s. 167.31, Stats.] In order to place, possess, or transport a firearm in or on a vehicle, the firearm must be unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has defined “enclosed within a carrying case” for purposes of this statute to mean “completely contained in a gun case expressly made for that purpose which is fully enclosed by being zipped, snapped, buckled, tied, or otherwise fastened, with no portion of the firearm exposed.” [See s. NR 10.001 (9n), Wis. Adm. Code.] The penalty for violating this statute is a forfeiture of not more than \$100.

There are a number of exceptions to the prohibition described above. The prohibition does not apply, for example, to members of the U.S. Armed Forces, to licensed private security agents, to peace officers, or to state or federal employees hunting deer in a chronic wasting disease eradication zone. 2005 Wisconsin Act 345 creates an additional exemption from the prohibition. In general, Act 345 is intended to apply to golf cart-type vehicles to travel between target shooting stations at sport shooting ranges.

The new exemption under Act 345 applies to a firearm that is unloaded but not encased. The unloaded firearm may be placed, possessed, or transported in or on a vehicle that is self-propelled, has four rubber-tired wheels, is not certified by the manufacturer for on-road use, and is not an all-terrain vehicle as defined in the motor vehicle code. The exemption applies when vehicles as described above are used to transport individuals involved in sport shooting activities at sport shooting ranges, the vehicles are operated entirely on private property and are not operated in the right-of-way of any highway, and the individuals using the vehicles are not hunting.

Effective Date: 2005 Wisconsin Act 345 takes effect on April 29, 2006.

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May 26, 2006

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.