



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2013 Wisconsin Act 355
[2013 Senate Bill 75]

**Operating Certain Three-Vehicle
Combinations on Highways**

Wisconsin law generally prohibits any person from operating a vehicle on a highway while towing two or more vehicles unless an exception applies or the operator holds an appropriate permit issued by the Department of Transportation (DOT). **2013 Wisconsin Act 355** provides an additional exception for the operation of certain three-vehicle combinations without a permit.

Under the Act, a person may operate a three-vehicle combination, not exceeding 70 feet in overall length, on a highway if all of the following apply:

- The towing vehicle serving as the power unit is equipped with a 5th wheel and kingpin connection by which the second vehicle in the combination is drawn.
- The second vehicle is a recreational vehicle or camping trailer, including any combination camping-horse trailer.
- The third vehicle is a recreational vehicle or camping trailer or a trailer carrying any vehicle for recreational use, carrying equestrian equipment and equestrian supplies for recreational purposes, or carrying no load.

Certain conditions apply to operators of three-vehicle combinations permitted by the Act. If the total loaded weight of all towed vehicles exceeds 3,000 pounds, one of the towed vehicles must be equipped with brakes. Furthermore, a three-vehicle combination, permitted by this Act, may not be operated on a highway if weather conditions include heavy snow, freezing rain, icy roads, high winds, or limited visibility. In addition, such three-vehicle combinations may not be operated on a highway that is closed or partially closed by DOT due to highway conditions.

Effective date and initial applicability: The Act took effect on April 25, 2014, and first applies to three-vehicle combinations operated on that day.

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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.wisconsin.gov>.