



**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ACT MEMO**

2015 Wisconsin Act 171 [2015 Assembly Bill 580]	Exceptions to Weight and Width Restrictions for Certain Logging Equipment
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2015 Wisconsin Act 171 (the Act) relates to: (1) exceptions to weight and width restrictions for certain logging equipment; and (2) the formula for determining reasonable compensation for parts provided by motorcycle dealers.

EXCEPTIONS TO WEIGHT AND WIDTH RESTRICTIONS FOR CERTAIN LOGGING EQUIPMENT

The Act provides limited exceptions to statutory width and weight restrictions for certain types of logging equipment. The exceptions apply to skidders, forwarders, harvesters, and wheeled feller bunchers, if the equipment is operated for logging purposes for distances of a half mile or less on highways that are not part of the national system of interstate and defense highways. The equipment must also be operated at times other than in hours of darkness,¹ and, with respect to the exception from weight restrictions, the equipment must be operated unladen and on a highway that is not posted with a weight limitation.

With respect to vehicle width, prior law, retained by the Act, generally requires a person to obtain a permit to operate a vehicle having a total width greater than eight and a half feet. The Act allows a width of 12 feet for vehicles that satisfy the criteria described above.

With respect to vehicle weight, the Act specifies that general weight restrictions do not apply to vehicles that satisfy the criteria described above.

¹ Under prior law, unchanged by the Act, “hours of darkness” means the time between one half hour after sunset to one half hour before sunrise, and all other times when there is not sufficient natural light to render clearly visible any person or vehicle upon a highway at a distance of 500 feet.

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>.

FORMULA FOR DETERMINING REASONABLE COMPENSATION FOR PARTS PROVIDED BY MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS

Prior law, retained under the Act, requires certain manufacturers, importers, and distributors of motor vehicles to reasonably compensate a dealer who performs work to rectify the product or warranty defects of the manufacturer, importer, or distributor, or to satisfy certain delivery and preparation obligations.

Under prior law, for purposes of that requirement, “reasonable compensation” for parts was equal to the dealer’s cost for the parts, multiplied by the sum of one and the dealer’s average percentage markup over dealer cost for parts.

The Act modifies the calculation for “reasonable compensation” for such parts to equal the dealer’s cost for the parts multiplied by the dealer’s average percentage markup over dealer cost for parts.

Effective date: March 2, 2016

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March 17, 2016

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