



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2005 Assembly Bill 566	Engrossed Assembly Bill 566
<i>Memo published:</i> November 30, 2005	<i>Contact:</i> John Stolzenberg, Chief of Research Services (266-2988)

Current law requires that snowmobiles manufactured after July 1, 1972 and sold in Wisconsin meet the following total vehicle noise limits, as measured by Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) standards:

- For snowmobiles manufactured between July 1, 1972 and July 1, 1975, no more than 82 decibels of A sound pressure at 50 feet.
- For snowmobiles manufactured after July 1, 1975, no more than 78 decibels of A sound pressure.

Current law also specifies that no snowmobile shall be modified by any person in a manner that increases total noise emission above that emitted by the snowmobile as originally constructed, regardless of the date of manufacture. Also, all snowmobiles manufactured, sold, or operated in Wisconsin must have a muffler in good working order that prevents excessive or unusual noise.

These noise standards do not apply to snowmobiles competing in a sanctioned race or derby or to snowmobiles being tested by manufacturers, distributors, or dealers on lands under their control.

Engrossed 2005 Assembly Bill 566 results in the following noise standards and muffler requirements for snowmobiles:

Total Vehicle Noise Standards

- Every snowmobile manufactured on or after July 2, 1975 that is sold in Wisconsin as a new snowmobile must be manufactured so as to limit total vehicle noise to not more than 78 decibels of A sound pressure, as measured by SAE standards.

- No snowmobile may be modified by any person in a manner that increases total vehicle noise above that emitted by the snowmobile as originally manufactured, regardless of the date of manufacture.

Exhaust and Engine Noise Level Standards

- For a snowmobile manufactured after July 1, 1972 and before July 2, 1975, the exhaust and engine noise level standard is 90 decibels, as measured by the specified SAE standard for measuring exhaust sound levels of stationary snowmobiles.
- For a snowmobile manufactured on or after July 2, 1975, the exhaust and engine noise level standard is 88 decibels, as measured by the specified SAE standard for measuring exhaust sound levels of stationary snowmobiles. Starting two years after the effective date of the bill, the Department of Natural Resources may modify this noise level standard by rule, after consulting with the Snowmobile Recreational Council.

Muffler Requirements

- No snowmobile may be manufactured, sold, or operated in Wisconsin unless it is equipped with a muffler in good working order.
- For snowmobiles manufactured after July 1, 1972, a muffler is in “good working order” if it prevents exhaust and engine noise that exceeds the applicable exhaust and engine noise level standards described above.

Exemption

- All of the noise standards and muffler requirements described above do not apply to snowmobiles competing in a sanctioned race or derby or to snowmobiles being tested by manufacturers, distributors, or dealers on lands under their control.

Legislative History

The Assembly Committee on Tourism offered Assembly Amendment 1 on September 6, 2005. This committee recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 1 and passage of Assembly Bill 566, as amended, by separate votes of Ayes, 10; Noes, 2; on September 6, 2005.

Representative Pettis offered Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Amendment 1 and Assembly Amendment 2 on November 10, 2005. The Assembly adopted Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Amendment 1, Assembly Amendment 1, as amended, and Assembly Amendment 2, and passed Assembly Bill 566, as amended, by separate voice votes on November 10, 2005.

On November 17, 2005, Assembly Bill 566, as passed by the Assembly, was engrossed by the direction of the Senate Chief Clerk.

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