



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2005 Assembly Bill 840**

**Assembly Amendments  
1, 2, and 3 and Senate  
Amendments 1 and 2**

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Under **current law**, with certain exceptions, there are no statutory speed restrictions imposed on the operation of snowmobiles unless they are being operated along or adjacent to the roadways of highways or of other thoroughfares. In those cases, the roadway speed limit applies. **This bill** creates an overall prohibition that no person may operate a snowmobile at a speed exceeding 55 miles per hour during the hours of darkness regardless of where the person is operating the snowmobile. Current law defines “hours of darkness” to be the time between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise and any other time when there is not enough natural light to clearly see a person or vehicle 500 feet away.

Also, **the bill** appropriates \$32,700 in general purpose revenue (GPR) in fiscal year 2005-06 to increase resources available for state snowmobile patrol and safety efforts.

### **Assembly Amendment 1**

- Modifies the effective date of the bill to be January 1, 2006, or on the 15<sup>th</sup> day after publication, whichever is later.

### **Assembly Amendment 2**

- Provides that this bill is exempt from the legislative rule that requires a specific general fund balance before a bill which directly or indirectly affects GPR may be enacted.

### **Assembly Amendment 3**

- Sunsets the snowmobile speed limit created by the bill two years after the bill’s effective date.

**Senate Amendment 1**

- Changes the sunset of the snowmobile speed limit, as affected by Assembly Amendment 3, from two years to one year after the bill's effective date.

**Senate Amendment 2**

- Deletes the appropriation for state snowmobile patrol and safety efforts and the related provision created by Assembly Amendment 2.
- Modifies the bill's effective date, as affected by Assembly Amendment 1, to be the first day of the third month after publication.

**Legislative History**

On December 5, 2005, the Joint Committee on Finance recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 1 by a vote of Ayes, 15; Noes, 0. The Joint Committee on Finance also recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 2 by a vote of Ayes, 9; Noes, 6.

The Joint Committee on Finance then recommended passage of the bill, as amended, by a vote of Ayes, 13; Noes, 2.

On December 13, 2005, Representatives Pettis, Musser, Kreibich, Lamb, Nass, Vos, Moulton, Gunderson, and Suder offered Assembly Amendment 3. On December 13, 2005, the Assembly adopted Assembly Amendments 1, 2, and 3 on separate voice votes and passed Assembly Bill 840, as amended, by a vote of Ayes, 91; Noes, 5; Paired, 2.

On March 8, 2006, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation introduced and recommended adoption of Senate Amendment 1 by a vote of Ayes, 4; Noes, 1 and of Senate Amendment 2 by a vote of Ayes, 3; Noes, 2. The committee then recommended concurrence in Assembly Bill 840, as amended, by a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0.

JES:ksm:rv