



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2005 Senate Bill 587

**Senate
Amendment 1**

Memo published: March 8, 2006

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Senate Bill 587 authorizes the operator of a patrol boat, when responding to an emergency call or when in pursuit of an actual or suspended violator of the law, to not comply with state boating statutes or local boating regulations, including speed limits and no wake zones, when a siren or emergency light is activated and if due regard is given to the safety of other persons in the vicinity. If an emergency light is used, the light must conform to applicable federal regulations. These regulations require law enforcement vessels to display a flashing blue light when engaged in direct law enforcement or public safety activities and vessels engaged in other government sanctioned public safety activities, such as fire fighting and emergency rescue services, to display an alternating flashing red and yellow light signal. The bill defines “patrol boat” to be a state or locally authorized boat for the purpose of law enforcement, search and rescue, fire fighting, emergency response, or water safety operations, including a water safety patrol unit.

Senate Amendment 1 specifies that, if the patrol boat is equipped with a siren and an emergency light, then both the siren and emergency light must be activated for the operator in the patrol boat to be exempt from state boating statutes and local boating regulations.

Legislative History

On March 6, 2006, the Senate Natural Resources and Transportation Committee introduced and recommended adoption of Senate Amendment 1 by a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0, and recommended passage of Senate Bill 587, as amended, by a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0.

JES:tlu:rv