



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2013 Assembly Bill 244**

**Assembly Amendments 1 & 2**

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*Contact: David Moore, Staff Attorney (266-1946)*

2013 Assembly Bill 206 establishes an authorized special group, enumerated in state law, for persons interested in obtaining a special registration plate displaying the words “In God We Trust.” In addition to the regular registration fee, special group members are required to pay a \$15 fee for the issuance or reissuance of the special plates, and a \$25 annual payment. Under the bill, the Department of Transportation (DOT) first covers its costs of production from these payments and then directs the remainder to the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to be used for the care of the members of the Wisconsin veterans homes. The amount that DOT withholds to cover its costs is the lesser of \$23,700 or DOT’s initial costs of production of these special plates.

### **ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1**

Under Assembly Amendment 1, DOT does not issue or begin development work on the In God We Trust special registration plates until DOT receives contributions totaling the lesser of \$23,700 or DOT’s final estimate of its initial costs of production of the special plates. The amendment also provides that these development costs are funded only from DOT’s appropriation for gifts and donations, rather than DOT’s appropriation for Department of Motor Vehicle operations. There is a June 30, 2017 deadline for DOT to receive the contributions necessary to produce the plates. If DOT does not receive sufficient contributions by this date, DOT will not develop them and must promptly return to each contributor his or her contributions, minus up to \$2.50 to cover the costs associated with returning the contributions. If DOT receives sufficient contributions by the deadline, it will begin issuing In God We Trust plates to persons who request them and the full amount of the \$25 annual payment will be directed to DVA.

### **ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 2**

Assembly Amendment 2 changes the effective date of the bill from the first day of the 5<sup>th</sup> month beginning after publication to the first day of the 7<sup>th</sup> beginning after publication.

**BILL HISTORY**

Representative Ripp offered Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Bill 244 on September 20, 2013. Representative Kaufert offered Assembly Amendment 2 on September 30, 2013. On November 12, 2013, the Assembly Committee on Transportation voted to recommend adoption of Assembly Amendment 1 and 2, on votes of Ayes, 10; Noes, 1; and Ayes, 11; Noes, 0, respectively. On the same day, the committee voted to recommend passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 13; Noes, 0.

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