



2001 SENATE BILL 56

February 20, 2001 - Introduced by Senators PLACHE, BRESKE, BURKE, DARLING, MOEN and SCHULTZ, cosponsored by Representatives AINSWORTH, BOYLE, FREESE, HUBER, KRAWCZYK, LADWIG, LASSA, M. LEHMAN, J. LEHMAN, LIPPERT, MUSSER, OLSEN, OWENS, PLOUFF, POWERS, RYBA, STARZYK, STONE, TOWNSEND, TURNER, VRAKAS and WADE. Referred to Committee on Insurance, Tourism, and Transportation.

- 1 **AN ACT to create** 346.915 of the statutes; **relating to:** following snowplows and
2 providing a penalty.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, with certain exceptions, no person may drive a motor vehicle closer than 500 feet behind an authorized emergency vehicle, including a police car, fire truck, or ambulance, that is responding to a call or alarm. A person violating this prohibition may be required to forfeit not less than \$20 nor more than \$40 for a first conviction, and not less than \$50 nor more than \$100 for a second or subsequent conviction within one year of the first conviction. There is no similar prohibition applicable to following too closely behind snowplows.

This bill prohibits a person from driving a motor vehicle closer than 200 feet behind an official snowplow that is engaged in the removal or treatment of snow or ice upon a highway having a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour if the snowplow is displaying two flashing red or amber lamps or a red or amber lamp of the dome-light type. The bill contains an exception to allow a person to overtake and pass a snowplow that is removing or treating snow or ice. In addition, the prohibition on following a snowplow too closely does not apply to a snowplow that is stopped or standing in the highway. The penalty for a violation is the same as the penalty for following an emergency vehicle too closely.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

