



State of Wisconsin
2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

LRB-5740/1
ZDW:ahe

2019 SENATE BILL 865

February 20, 2020 - Introduced by Senators WANGGAARD and CARPENTER, cosponsored by Representatives SPREITZER, EMERSON, HEBL, STUBBS, SUBECK, TUSLER and ZAMARRIPA. Referred to Committee on Transportation, Veterans and Military Affairs.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 340.01 (23) and 340.01 (43e) of the statutes; **relating to:** when
2 motor vehicle lamps are required to be lighted.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, with limited exceptions, no person may operate a vehicle upon a highway during hours of darkness or during a period of limited visibility unless the vehicle's required headlamps, tail lamps, and clearance lamps are lighted.

Current law defines "hours of darkness" as the period of time from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise and when visibility is 500 feet or less. Under this bill, "hours of darkness" means the period of time from sunset to sunrise and when visibility is 1,000 feet or less. The modification of this definition will also apply to current law provisions relating to the operation of all-terrain and utility terrain vehicles, driving experience requirements for issuance of operator's licenses, restrictions applicable to instruction permits and restricted licenses, and requirements for the examination of applicants for a motorcycle license.

Current law defines "period of limited visibility" as any time that weather conditions limit visibility such that objects on a highway are not clearly discernible at 500 feet from the front of a vehicle. Under the bill, "period of limited visibility" means any time that weather conditions limit visibility such that objects on a highway are not clearly discernible at 1,000 feet from the front of a vehicle or the vehicle's windshield wipers are in use.

