



# JERRY PETROWSKI

WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

## *Senate Bill 242 (AB 278)*

January 15, 2014

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today on Senate Bill 242.

State law presently includes a definition of "common motor carrier." Generally, common motor carriers offer to transport passengers and property for compensation. Persons and businesses falling under this definition are subject to insurance, registration, and licensure requirements that differ from those applicable to auto and light truck drivers. Excluded from this definition are commuter car and van pools capable of carrying fewer than 16 persons.

SB 242 has been brought forward because federal regulations have changed, and the state must adopt the federal regulation to remain eligible for Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) funding for Wisconsin's Motor Carrier Enforcement Program. That funding is currently estimated at \$4.5 million from two federal grants, the loss of which would effectively eliminate Wisconsin's Motor Carrier Enforcement Program.

This legislation harmonizes state and federal regulations by reducing the threshold number of passengers in a commuter van or car pool from 16 to 8, including the driver. Carriers operating above that number would be subject to regulation as common motor carriers.

After reviewing the language of the original bill, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) legal department recommended minor changes to the language of the original bill that are reflected in the substitute amendment. In the Assembly, the Committee on Transportation recommended passage of the Assembly-version of the bill as amended on a vote of 13-0, and was passed on the floor on a voice vote.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak on this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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