

State of Wisconsin



2025 Senate Bill 825

Date of enactment:
Date of publication*:

2025 WISCONSIN ACT

AN ACT to renumber 13.489 (1c) (a); to amend 13.489 (4) (a) 1. a., 13.489 (4) (a) 1. b. and 13.489 (4m) (a); to create 13.489 (1c) (am) of the statutes; relating to: environmental review prerequisites for certain major highway project actions.

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

SECTION 1. 13.489 (1c) (a) of the statutes is renumbered 13.489 (1c) (aw).

SECTION 2. 13.489 (1c) (am) of the statutes is created to read:

13.489 (1c) (am) “Categorical exclusion” means a categorical exclusion from a requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement for a highway project as described under 23 CFR 771.117.

SECTION 3. 13.489 (4) (a) 1. a. of the statutes is amended to read:

13.489 (4) (a) 1. a. The commission determines that, within 6 years after the first July 1 after the date on which the commission recommends approval of the project, construction will be commenced on all projects enumerated under s. 84.013 (3) and on the project recommended for approval and the commission has been notified that a ~~final draft~~ environmental impact statement ~~or, draft~~ environmental assessment, ~~or draft categorical exclusion~~ for the project has been approved by the department of transportation or, if necessary to secure federal funding, the federal highway administration.

SECTION 4. 13.489 (4) (a) 1. b. of the statutes is amended to read:

13.489 (4) (a) 1. b. The report recommending approval of the project is accompanied by a financing proposal that, if implemented, would provide funding in an amount sufficient to ensure that construction will commence on all projects enumerated under s. 84.013 (3) and on the project within 6 years after the first July 1 after the date on which the commission recommends approval of the project and the commission has been notified that a ~~final draft~~ environmental impact statement ~~or, draft~~ environmental assessment, ~~or draft categorical exclusion~~ for the project has been approved by the department of transportation or, if necessary to secure federal funding, the federal highway administration.

SECTION 5. 13.489 (4m) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

13.489 (4m) (a) Notwithstanding sub. (4), for any major highway project described in s. 84.013 (1) (a) 2m., the department of transportation shall submit a report to the commission, prior to construction of the project, which report may request the commission’s approval to proceed with the project. The department may submit this request at any time following completion by the department of a draft environmental impact state-

* Section 991.11, WISCONSIN STATUTES: Effective date of acts. “Every act and every portion of an act enacted by the legislature over the governor’s partial veto which does not expressly prescribe the time when it takes effect shall take effect on the day after its date of publication.”

ment ~~or~~ draft environmental assessment, or draft categorical exclusion for the project.
