

State of Wisconsin



2025 Senate Bill 136

Date of enactment:
Date of publication*:

2025 WISCONSIN ACT

AN ACT to renumber 347.26 (5); to amend 347.26 (4) (a); to create 347.26 (4) (am) and 347.26 (5) (b) of the statutes; relating to: school bus lighting and signage and modifying and creating administrative rules of the Department of Transportation.

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

SECTION 1. 347.26 (4) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

347.26 (4) (a) ~~Any~~ Except as provided in par. (am), any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than 2 back-up lamps which shall be so directed as to project a white or amber light illuminating the roadway to the rear of such vehicle for a distance not to exceed 75 feet.

SECTION 2. 347.26 (4) (am) of the statutes is created to read:

347.26 (4) (am) In addition to the lamps authorized under par. (a), a school bus that is painted as provided in s. 347.44 (1) may be equipped with one amber or white back-up lamp on each side. The lamps shall be mounted no more than 20 inches behind or 20 inches in front of the wheel housing area and below the floor line rub rail. The illumination shall be directed down and back for a distance not to exceed 75 feet. The secretary may prescribe rules for the specifications, installation, and operation of lamps authorized under this paragraph.

SECTION 3. 347.26 (5) of the statutes is renumbered 347.26 (5) (a).

SECTION 4. 347.26 (5) (b) of the statutes is created to read:

347.26 (5) (b) A school bus that is painted as provided in s. 347.44 (1) may be equipped with one illuminated sign mounted on the front above the windshield and one illuminated sign mounted on the rear above the window. The illuminated signs authorized under this paragraph shall emit a steady, nonglaring light.

SECTION 5. Trans 300.54 (1) (am) 3m. of the administrative code is created to read:

Trans 300.54 (1) (am) 3m. Notwithstanding subd. 3., a school bus may be equipped with a light-emitting diode strobe light that meets or exceeds Class II SAE J845 standards.

SECTION 6. Effective dates. This act takes effect on the day after publication, except as follows:

(1) The treatment of administrative rules takes effect as provided in s. 227.265.

* 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."