



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2015 Wisconsin Act 11
[2015 Assembly Bill 2]

Town Line Highways

BACKGROUND

The statutes establish a procedure to lay out, alter, or discontinue a highway on the line between a town and another town, a city, or a village (municipality), or a highway extending from one town into an adjoining municipality. Once the procedure has been initiated, the governing bodies of the municipalities, “acting together” in cooperation, but voting upon applications or resolutions as separate governing bodies, may take certain actions covering the affected town line highway.

In *Dawson v. Town of Jackson*, the Wisconsin Supreme Court interpreted the statutory requirement that governing bodies of municipalities be “acting together.” The Court held that under the statute, “acting together” requires a majority vote from each governing body; “the statute does not mandate the creation of a new, combined board.” [*Dawson v. Town of Jackson*, 336 Wis. 2d 318 (2011).]

2015 WISCONSIN ACT 11

2015 Wisconsin Act 11 codifies the Court’s interpretation in *Dawson v. Town of Jackson*, described above.

Effective date: April 10, 2015

Prepared by: Michael Queensland, Staff Attorney

April 28, 2015

MQ:mcm;jal

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.