
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2023 Senate Bill 612

Senate Amendment 1

2023 SENATE BILL 612

2023 Senate Bill 612 allows a town to designate any highway or portion of a highway under its jurisdiction as a seasonally maintained highway. Under the bill, the town is not required to keep a seasonally maintained highway passable for motor vehicle traffic from December 15 to March 31.

The bill provides that a highway under a town's jurisdiction is eligible for designation as a seasonally maintained highway only if all of the following apply:

- The highway is designated as a snowmobile route.
- The town erects a sign at each point where the seasonally maintained highway begins and at each point where the seasonally maintained highway intersects a highway that is not designated as a seasonally maintained highway.
- The period of closure begins no earlier than December 15 and ends no later than March 31 of the following year.
- The seasonally maintained highway is not the sole means of access to a residence, a private parcel containing improvements, an improved boat landing, or a lake larger than 20 acres.

A town designating a seasonally maintained highway must ensure that remaining highways provide for the most direct access to residences and do not require that a residence be accessed from only one direction, unless the residence is located on a road that terminates beyond the residence.

Under the bill, a town is not liable for damages or injuries sustained by the operator or passenger of a motor vehicle that is operated on a seasonally maintained highway during the period that the highway is closed to motor vehicle traffic.

SENATE AMENDMENT 1

Senate Amendment 1 removes the provision exempting a town from liability for damages or injuries sustained by the operator or passenger of a motor vehicle operated on a seasonally maintained highway when the highway is closed to motor vehicle traffic.

BILL HISTORY

Senator Marklein offered Senate Amendment 1 on February 13, 2024. On February 20, 2024, the Senate adopted the amendment and passed Senate Bill 612, as amended, both on voice votes.

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's [bill history page](#).

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