



2025 ASSEMBLY BILL 143

March 17, 2025 - Introduced by Representatives MAXEY, DONOVAN, PIWOWARCZYK, RODRIGUEZ, DITTRICH, GUNDRUM, GUSTAFSON, B. JACOBSON, KNODL, KREIBICH, MURSAU and PENTERMAN, cosponsored by Senator BRADLEY. Referred to Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

- 1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 343.45 (3) and 343.46 (4); *to create* 343.45 (2m) and 343.46
2 (2m) of the statutes; **relating to:** allowing an unlicensed person to use a motor
3 vehicle and providing a penalty.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, a person who owns or is in control of a motor vehicle is prohibited from allowing another person to operate the vehicle if the vehicle operator is not authorized to operate a motor vehicle. Current law also prohibits a person from renting a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer to another person who is not authorized to operate a motor vehicle. A violation of either prohibition is a forfeiture of not more than \$100.

This bill increases the penalty for both violations to a fine not to exceed \$1,000 for a first offense and not to exceed \$10,000 for a second or subsequent offense. The bill also provides that the prohibitions apply irrespective of whether the person permitting the operation of a motor vehicle had actual knowledge of the vehicle operator's authorization to operate a motor vehicle.

Because this bill creates a new crime or revises a penalty for an existing crime, the Joint Review Committee on Criminal Penalties may be requested to prepare a report.

ASSEMBLY BILL 143**SECTION 1**

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

SECTION 1. 343.45 (2m) of the statutes is created to read:

343.45 (2m) Subsections (1) and (2) apply irrespective of whether the person authorizing or permitting the operation of a motor vehicle had actual knowledge of the vehicle operator's authorization under this chapter to operate a motor vehicle.

SECTION 2. 343.45 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

343.45 (3) Except as another penalty is provided by s. 343.245 (4) (b), any person violating this section ~~may be required to forfeit not more than \$100~~ is subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000 for a first offense and not to exceed \$10,000 for a 2nd or subsequent offense.

SECTION 3. 343.46 (2m) of the statutes is created to read:

343.46 (2m) Subsection (1) applies irrespective of whether the person renting a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer to another had actual knowledge of the vehicle operator's authorization under this chapter to operate a motor vehicle.

SECTION 4. 343.46 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

343.46 (4) Any person violating this section ~~may be required to forfeit not more than \$100~~ is subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000 for a first offense and not to exceed \$10,000 for a 2nd or subsequent offense.

SECTION 5. Initial applicability.

(1) This act first applies to a violation committed on the effective date of this subsection.

(END)