LRB-2361/1 ZDW:emw

2025 SENATE BILL 141

March 21, 2025 - Introduced by Senator Bradley, cosponsored by Representatives Maxey, Donovan, Piwowarczyk, Rodriguez, Dittrich, Gundrum, Gustafson, Knodl, Kreibich, Mursau, Penterman, B. Jacobson and O'Connor. Referred to Committee on Judiciary 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 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.

SENATE BILL 141

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SECTION 1

The people of the state of	Wisconsin,	represented	in senate	and	assembly	y, 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
<u>or subsequent offense</u> .
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)