State of Misconsin 2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3455/1 EVM:ahe

2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 638

January 7, 2016 – Introduced by Representatives Kulp, Krug, Kleefisch, T. Larson, Hutton, Horlacher, Allen and Quinn, cosponsored by Senators Olsen, Lasee, Marklein and Nass. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

AN ACT to amend 84.305 (5) (f) 1.; and to create 84.305 (5) (f) 3. of the statutes;

relating to: removal of vegetation obstructing certain outdoor advertising signs along highways.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill creates an exception to the requirement that a sign owner pay compensation to the Department of Transportation (DOT) for the removal of certain trees that obstruct the view of the sign.

Under current law, DOT administers a permit system for the maintenance and removal by sign owners of vegetation obstructing the view of signs along state trunk highways. With limited exceptions, DOT issues permits to sign owners for the trimming or removal of vegetation in the highway right-of-way if, for a distance of 500 continuous feet within the 1,000-foot distance motorists travel immediately before reaching the sign, the vegetation obstructs the view of any portion of the face of the sign. A permit authorizes the sign owner, or a third-party contractor employed by the sign owner, to trim or remove obstructing vegetation to the extent necessary to eliminate the obstruction and restore an unobstructed view of the sign for a distance of 500 continuous feet along the highway. A permittee must compensate DOT \$200, adjusted annually for inflation, for each tree removed that has a diameter of two inches or more.

Under this bill, no compensation is required for the removal of a tree obstructing the view of a sign if the sign advertises activities conducted on the property on which it is located.

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For further information see the **state** fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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

SECTION 1. 84.305 (5) (f) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

84.305 (5) (f) 1. A Except as provided in subd. 3., a permittee shall compensate the department \$200, as adjusted under subd. 2., for each tree removed under a permit, as calculated by the certified arborist retained by the permittee according to the method specified in par. (d).

Section 2. 84.305 (5) (f) 3. of the statutes is created to read:

84.305 (5) (f) 3. No compensation is required for the removal of a tree obstructing the view of a sign if the sign advertises activities conducted on the property on which it is located.

10 (END)