

CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

To: All Legislators

From: Representative John Spiros

Senator Eric Wimberger

Date: May 2nd, 2025

RE: Co-Sponsorship of LRB 2659/1 – Camera monitor systems as an alternative to mirrors for commercial motor vehicles.

DEADLINE: Monday, May 12th at 5:00 pm

Under current state and federal law, commercial motor vehicles are required to be equipped with mirrors to view the roadway to the rear and along the sides of a vehicle.

In February 2019, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) within the U.S. Department of Transportation, approved a five-year exemption to the federal requirement that allowed the use of a *camera monitoring system* as an alternative to the required *rear-vision mirrors* for commercial motor vehicles.

Due to its safety results, FMCSA renewed this exemption and provided a subsequent 5-year extension until 2029. The exemption allows commercial motor vehicles to remove the conventional rear-view mirrors and operate with an integrated system of cameras and digital displays.

LRB 2659/1 conforms Wisconsin to federal rules and allows WI commercial motor vehicles to utilize a camera monitor system that is approved by the FMCSA in lieu of the rear-vision mirrors. The bill is supported by the Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association.

A camera monitoring system provides enhanced, real-time visibility from nearly every angle of a commercial vehicle. The cameras eliminate blind spots and have been shown to significantly reduce the frequency and severity of accidents. The use of high-definition digital cameras also provides for color night vision and assists with night driving.

In addition to its important safety benefits, vehicles can achieve a 2-3% increase in fuel savings when traditional mirrors are removed and a camera system is in place.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this bill, please reply to this email or contact Representative Spiros' office (9186) or Senator Wimberger's office (6-5670) by **5 pm on Monday, May 12th**. Co-sponsors will be added to both the Assembly and Senate versions of the bill unless specified otherwise.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law prohibits any person from operating a motor vehicle on a highway unless the vehicle is equipped with a mirror to provide a view of the roadway to the rear of the vehicle. Current regulations of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) require commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) to be equipped with mirrors on each side of vehicle positioned to provide a view of the highway to the rear and along both sides of the CMV. FMCSA has created an exemption to this requirement for CMVs equipped with a specified camera monitor system. This bill provides that a CMV may be equipped with a camera monitor system approved by FMCSA as an alternative to mirrors that would otherwise be required.