

Transportation

AB 59 – The Car Door Bicycle Bill

Rep. Black

Summary of Bill (*as amended*):

Assembly Bill (AB) 59 - This bill attempts to address the problem of bicyclists being struck or running into motor vehicle doors while operating on city streets. The bill requires motorists to take due precaution before opening their vehicle's door.

Assembly Amendment 1 - This amendment maintains responsibility for both parties using the roadway. Initial concern was the original bill would have eliminated liability from bicyclists. This amendment maintains current law on distance between bicyclists and stopped or parked motor vehicles, *[AA1 to AB59 adopted 12-0]*

Fiscal Effect:

No Fiscal Estimate was required for this bill.

Supporters Message:

- We need to protect the right to operate safely on the roadway for bicyclists. Motor vehicle operators are too careless when it comes to opening their doors.

Opponents Message:

- Some feel this bill shifts the responsibility for safety from the bicycle rider passing a motor vehicle to the motor vehicle occupant opening the vehicle's door.

Key Supporters:

Rep. Black and Sen. Risser, Authors; Bicycle Federation of WI

Key Opponents:

No one testified against AB 59 however, the Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association registered against with the GAB.

Committee Vote:

On April 17, 2009, the Assembly Committee on Transportation recommended passage of AB59, as amended, on a vote of 12-0.

Ranking Member Author of Bill Summary

Jason Bauknecht; Office of Rep. Petrowski/Bies