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Roadside Safety Bill Signed into Law at Fire Station in Amherst
Local Firefighters and Legislator Were Key to Bill's Passage

Amherst, WI - The side of a busy road can be a dangerous place – but Senator Patrick Testin has been working with area firefighters and first responders on a bill to make it safer for emergency personnel. That legislation, Assembly Bill 297, was signed into law earlier today at the fire station in Amherst.

“I first authored this legislation in 2019 after talking with the leadership at the Amherst Fire District,” said Senator Testin. “Too often, inattentive driving has led to the death of men and women working on the roadside – emergency responders and utility, construction, and maintenance workers. I’m glad that we were able to pass the bill this session to make our roads safer.”

The new law increases penalties for drivers who injure or kill a worker on the side of the road. Motorists can now be sentenced to up to nine months in jail and face fines of up to \$10,000. Additionally, the law requires that the Department of Transportation start an ad campaign to make people aware of the dangers and penalties associated traffic violations where roadside workers are present.

“It was an Honor to have worked with Senator Testin on this very important highway safety law,” said Amherst Fire District Assistant Chief Brian Swan. “I feel very fortunate to have been able to help make a difference in the safety of all people involved with emergency scenes on the roadway.”

Text of the bill that was signed today can be found [here](#).

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