



MEMORANDUM

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

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To: Ald. Terry L. Witkowski
From: John Ledvina . Fiscal Planning Specialist
Date: March 5, 2018
Subject: Hit-and-Run Crashes

As you requested, I obtained hit-and-run crash data for the last 5 years from the Police Department. The Police Department used Wisconsin Department of Transportation data.

Crashes	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Hit-and-Run	3,221	3,399	4,144	4,579	4,700	20,043
Total	13,438	13,751	16,024	16,660	16,354	76,227
Percentage Hit-and-Run	24.0%	24.7%	25.9%	27.5%	28.7%	26.3%

The number of hit-and-run crashes and their proportion of all crashes has substantially increased over the last 5 years.

Currently, under Wis. Stat. 346.74(5), the penalties for committing a hit and run crash are:

- No injury . Misdemeanor with possible fine of between \$300 and \$1,000 and up to 6 months in jail.
- Injury but not great bodily harm . Felony (no class designated) with possible fine of up to \$10,000 and up to 9 months in prison.
- Person suffered great bodily harm . Class E felony with possible fine up to \$50,000 and up to 15 years in prison.
- Crash resulted in a person's death . Class D felony with possible fine up to \$100,000 and up to 25 years in prison.

These penalties were last changed in 2003. The changes resulted from 2001 Act 109 and 2003 Act 74, both of which increased the potential penalties.

A comparison of penalties in surrounding states shows that Wisconsin has the most severe potential penalties:

	Wisconsin		Minnesota		Iowa		Illinois	
	Fine	Jail/Prison	Fine	Jail/Prison	Fine	Jail/Prison	Fine	Jail/Prison
No Injury	\$1,000	6 months	\$1,000	90 days	\$625	30 days	\$2,500	1 year
Injury	\$10,000	9 months	\$3,000	1 year	\$1,875	1 year	\$25,000	3 years
Great bodily harm	\$50,000	15 years	\$4,000	2 years				
Death	\$100,000	25 years	\$5,000	3 years	\$7,500	5 years	\$25,000	5 years

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