

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 5016

C 86 L 21
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning tracked and wheeled all-terrain vehicles.

Sponsors: Senators Warnick, Brown and Van De Wege.

Senate Committee on Transportation
House Committee on Transportation

Background: Snowmobiles. A snowmobile is a type of off-road vehicle capable of traveling over snow or ice, using an endless belt tread or cleats as a means of propulsion, and is steered by skis or sled-type runners. Snowmobiles are regulated under state law separately from other off-road vehicles. Snowmobiles are subject to a \$30 registration fee, which is deposited to the Snowmobile Account.

Wheeled All-Terrain Vehicles. A WATV is a specific category of off-road vehicle regulated separately under some aspects of a state law first enacted in 2013. There are two types of WATVs authorized to travel on public roads under certain circumstances. One is a motorized nonhighway vehicle:

- having handlebars 50 inches or less in width;
- having a seat height of at least 20 inches;
- weighing less than 1500 pounds; and
- having four tires with a diameter of 30 inches or less.

The second is a utility-type vehicle:

- designed for and capable of travel over designated roads;
- traveling on four or more low-pressure tires of 20 pounds per square inch or less;
- having a maximum width less than 74 inches;
- having a maximum weight less than 2000 pounds; and
- having a wheelbase of 110 inches or less.

On-road use requires certain vehicle registration requirements including equipment and payment of a \$12 fee. WATV off-road use requires registration and payment of an \$18 fee.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Conversion kits are currently available, allowing WATVs to be used on snow or ice as a snowmobile.

Summary: "Tracked all-terrain vehicle" is defined within the snowmobile chapter of state law as a WATV, weighing less than 2000 pounds in stock configuration, with tracks or a combination of tracks and skis installed in place of the tires. The definition of snowmobile is broadened to include tracked all-terrain vehicles.

An owner of a WATV is allowed to maintain concurrent registrations for the vehicle for use as a WATV, and for use as a tracked all-terrain vehicle. When registering as a WATV, the WATV registration laws apply, including applicable fees. When registering as a tracked all-terrain vehicle, the snowmobile registration laws apply, including applicable fees.

The Department of Licensing must establish a declaration for submission by the WATV owner when initially applying for a snowmobile registration, which states the WATV complies with all applicable federal or state vehicle safety standards while in use as a WATV upon public highways.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	48	0
House	97	0

Effective: July 25, 2021