
SENATE BILL 5646

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Senators Saling and West.

Read first time February 12, 1991. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to snowmobiles; and amending RCW 46.10.090.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

3 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.10.090 and 1980 c 148 s 1 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 (1) It is a traffic infraction for any person to operate any
6 snowmobile:

7 (a) At a rate of speed greater than reasonable and prudent under
8 the existing conditions.

9 (b) In a manner so as to endanger the property of another.

10 (c) Without a lighted headlight and taillight between the hours of
11 dusk and dawn, or when otherwise required for the safety of others.

12 (d) Without an adequate braking device which may be operated either
13 by hand or foot.

14 (e) Without an adequate and operating muffling device which shall
15 effectively blend the exhaust and motor noise in such a manner so as to

1 preclude excessive or unusual noise, and, (i) on snowmobiles
2 manufactured on or before January 4, 1973, which shall effectively
3 limit such noise at a level of eighty-six decibels, or below, on the
4 "A" scale at fifty feet, and (ii) on snowmobiles manufactured after
5 January 4, 1973, which shall effectively limit such noise at a level of
6 eighty-two decibels, or below, on the "A" scale at fifty feet, and
7 (iii) on snowmobiles manufactured after January 1, 1975, which shall
8 effectively limit such noise at a level of seventy-eight decibels, or
9 below, as measured on the "A" scale at a distance of fifty feet, under
10 testing procedures as established by the department of ecology; except
11 snowmobiles used in organized racing events in an area designated for
12 that purpose may use a bypass or cutout device. This section shall not
13 affect the power of the department of ecology to adopt noise
14 performance standards for snowmobiles. Noise performance standards
15 adopted or to be adopted by the department of ecology shall be in
16 addition to the standards contained in this section, but the
17 department's standards shall supersede this section to the extent of
18 any inconsistency.

19 (f) Upon the paved portion or upon the shoulder or inside bank or
20 slope of any public roadway or highway, or upon the median of any
21 divided highway, except as provided in RCW 46.10.100 and 46.10.110.

22 (g) In any area or in such a manner so as to expose the underlying
23 soil or vegetation, or to injure, damage, or destroy trees or growing
24 crops.

25 (h) Without a current registration decal affixed thereon, if not
26 exempted under RCW 46.10.030 (~~as now or hereafter amended~~).

27 (i) On public or private land, unless the operator and riders are
28 wearing protective helmets that conform to rules adopted by the state
29 patrol under RCW 46.37.530. The helmet must be equipped with (i)
30 either a neck or chin strap which shall be securely fastened while the

1 snowmobile is in motion, except when the snowmobile is being loaded or
2 unloaded, and (ii) full ear protection.

3 (2) It is a misdemeanor for any person to operate any snowmobile so
4 as to endanger the person of another or while under the influence of
5 intoxicating liquor or narcotics or habit-forming drugs.