

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2139

As Reported by House Committee On:
Transportation

Title: An act relating to snowmobile registration fees.

Brief Description: Concerning snowmobile registration fees.

Sponsors: Representatives Bronoske, Hall, Parshley, Doglio, Waters, Barkis, Zahn, Wylie, Reeves and Donaghy; by request of Parks and Recreation Commission.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Transportation: 1/22/26, 2/5/26 [DPS].

<p>Brief Summary of Substitute Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increases registration fees for snowmobiles.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 20 members: Representatives Fey, Chair; Bernbaum, Vice Chair; Donaghy, Vice Chair; Reed, Vice Chair; Barkis, Ranking Minority Member; Mendoza, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Schmidt, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Bronoske, Duerr, Entenman, Griffey, Hackney, Hall, Nance, Paul, Ramel, Stuebe, Taylor, Wylie and Zahn.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 2 members: Representatives Orcutt and Volz.

Minority Report: Without recommendation. Signed by 6 members: Representatives Low, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Engell, Klicker, Ley, Richards and Timmons.

Staff: Lily Smith (786-7175).

Background:

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.

Snowmobiles operating in the state generally must be registered with the Department of Licensing and display a snowmobile decal, or have a nonresident temporary permit.

The initial and annual registration fee for a snowmobile is \$50. The initial and annual registration fee for a vintage snowmobile, which is a snowmobile manufactured at least 30 years ago, is \$12.

These fees are deposited in the Snowmobile Account and used for snowmobile-related programs and activities.

Summary of Substitute Bill:

Beginning September 30, 2026, registration fees are increased from \$50 to \$75 for snowmobiles, and from \$12 to \$18 for vintage snowmobiles.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:

As compared to the original bill, the substitute bill changes the application date of the increased snowmobile fees from September 30, 2025, to September 30, 2026.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available. New fiscal note requested on February 6, 2026.

Effective Date of Substitute Bill: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) The fees at issue in the bill support the costs of groomed trails maintained for snowmobiles. These are often in rural economies and provide opportunities for the public. These local economies near snowmobile parks have reinvented themselves from being resource towns, and recreation is a powerful economic tool. We need to keep the park users to keep these places competitive. There are already limited operations and services within the current budget and revenues are down. If the fees are not increased, more snowmobile parks may close, and the program may experience a slow death. Most snowmobilers are in favor of the increase. This fee was last raised in 2016. The agency is working on better enforcement. The quality of trails matters, and there is big safety difference when on a groomed trail.

(Opposed) There have not been enough questions asked of the Washington State Parks and

Recreation Commission, which is not necessarily doing things correctly. This fee increase would be borne by snowmobilers, but cross-country skiers on the same trails are not asked to pay the fees. A real solution to the issue would be a sales tax. The trails are already overrun with unregistered snowmobiles, and by raising the fee and the hurdle for licensing, this bill will lead to fewer snowmobiles being registered.

Persons Testifying: (In support) Representative Dan Bronoske, prime sponsor; Cindy Hoover; Brian Considine, WA State Parks, External and Legislative Relations Director; Rob Sendak, WA State Parks, Winter Recreation and Boating Program Manager; Sam Hensold, Department of Natural Resources; Dean Meakin, Washington State Snowmobile Association; and Cory Wright, Kittitas County Commissioner.

(Opposed) Stephen Alldridge, Z Bus; and Greg Figg, Spokane Winter Knights Snowmobile Club.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.