# Bill as Introduced

# SB 381-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2000 SESSION

00-2714
08/09

SENATE BILL ***381-FN***

AN ACT relative to registration fees for off-highway recreation vehicles.

SPONSORS: Sen. Below, Dist 5; Sen. Gordon, Dist 2; Rep. Roberts, Ches 4; Rep. M. Whalley, Merr 5

COMMITTEE: Transportation

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## ANALYSIS

This bill allows owners of OHRV trails maintenance vehicles to register these vehicles at a rate of $5 each per year. This bill also defines OHRV trails maintenance vehicle.

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Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics.***
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

00-2714
08/09

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand*

AN ACT relative to registration fees for off-highway recreation vehicles.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1 New Paragraph; Off Highway Recreational Vehicles; Definitions. Amend RSA 215-A:1 by inserting after paragraph VI the following new paragraph:

VI-a. "OHRV trails maintenance vehicle" means any mechanically-propelled vehicle used to maintain OHRV trails, classified by the chief of the bureau of trails. When said vehicle is registered as an OHRV trails maintenance vehicle, it shall not be used for recreational purposes. For the purposes of this chapter, all vehicles within this definition shall be classified as off highway recreational vehicles.

2 New Paragraph; Off Highway Recreational Vehicles; Registration. Amend RSA 215-A:21 by inserting after paragraph V the following new paragraph:

V-a.(a) All OHRV trails maintenance vehicles shall be registered with a number to be placed and attached as follows:

(1) If the vehicle is a snow traveling maintenance vehicle, in the manner prescribed in paragraph IV.

(2) If the vehicle is a wheeled maintenance vehicle, in the manner prescribed in paragraph V.

(b) The registration number shall be contained on a decal of a design, color, and size designated by the executive director. The registration number for said vehicle shall be assigned by the executive director or one of his agents. In case of a transfer, the number shall expire and become invalid. If a new machine is obtained a new number shall be assigned, unless otherwise authorized by the executive director.

3 New Paragraph; Off Highway Recreational Vehicles; Transfer of Registration. Amend RSA 215-A:22 by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

IV. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a person or club who conveys to another ownership of a registered OHRV trails maintenance vehicle may register in his name or the club's name another OHRV trails maintenance vehicle for the remainder of the year at the rate designated in RSA 215-A:23, provided that the reverse side of the registration form is completely filled out and submitted to the department of fish and game upon request for transfer.

4 New Paragraph; Off Highway Recreational Vehicles; Registration Fees. Amend RSA 215-A:23 by inserting after paragraph V the following new paragraph:

XI. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, $5 for each set of plates for OHRV trails maintenance vehicles. No other fees shall be collected under this chapter for the registration of such vehicles. Any such funds collected shall be appropriated to the department of fish and game for the costs of administration of OHRV trails maintenance vehicles.

5 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

LBAO
00-2714
12/6/99

## SB 381-FN - FISCAL NOTE

AN ACT relative to registration fees for off-highway recreation vehicles.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Legislative Budget Assistant has determined that this legislation has a total fiscal impact of less than $10,000 in each of the fiscal years 2000 through 2004.

# Committee Minutes

Date: February 15, 2000
Time: 2:45 PM
Room: 103-LOB

The Senate Committee on Transportation held a hearing on the following:

SB 381-FN relative to registration fees for off-highway recreation vehicles.

Members of Committee present: Senator Gordon
Senator Below
Senator Russman

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The Chair, Senator Edward M. Gordon, opened the hearing.

Senator Edward M. Gordon, D. 2: I'm going to open the hearing on SB 381. Relative to registration fees for off-highway vehicles. I'm going to call upon the Primary Sponsor, Senator Below to give his testimony.

Senator Clifton Below, D. 5: Thank you Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. I'm state Senator Clifton Below representing District 5, 17 towns in Grafton, Sullivan and Merrimack Counties.

This is a pretty simple straightforward bill. It relates to providing a reduced registration fee for essentially snowmobile grooming vehicles, that are owned and operated or operated by local snowmobile clubs for maintaining snowmobile trails. As I think we all know, snowmobiling contributes a lot to the New Hampshire economy and is an important form of recreation. It relies in great part upon volunteers in the clubs who do a lot to help maintain the trails, both in the summer time and in the winter time with the trail grooming equipment.

Presently they pay a registration fee, which is not in any way discounted. This would provide a discount for that fee. It's important because in New Hampshire people who snowmobile aren't required to be members of local clubs. So the local clubs rely in some cases on fairly small groups of volunteers. And they have to raise money to help match the cost for

operating equipment. Of course they do receive some grant and aid programs, but it doesn't cover the full cost. This would allow a discount for the trail grooming equipment. So I recommend its passage. Thank you.

Senator Edward M. Gordon, D. 2: Any questions? Thank you for your testimony.

Senator Clifton Below, D. 5: Thank you.

Senator Edward M. Gordon, D. 2: Representative Bill Roberts?

Representative Bill Roberts: I just signed up. I'm in favor.

Senator Edward M. Gordon, D. 2: Paul Gray?

Paul Gray: Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, committee members. For the record my name is Paul Gray, Supervisor of Bureau of Trails at DRED. We support SB 381. We have 103 snowmobile clubs and 8 OHRV clubs in our grant and aid program presently.

These clubs receive funding from us for trail maintenance as well as we help them purchase trail-grooming equipment. The same equipment we're talking about here today in registration. For many years our groomers have been registered either as farm tractors, the larger 3 classes of tractors. Snow grooming tractors have been registered as an agricultural tractor. And the smaller 2 classes, which are your standard snowmobile and a little bit larger snow mobile have been registered as OHRVs. An OHRV registration in the state right now is $37. So these clubs were required to pay $37 for that privilege of going out and volunteering their time to maintain the trail. In the larger classes 4, 5, and 6 tractors they were paying a $12, I believe, agricultural tractor plate through Motor Vehicle Department.

Well tightening of the agricultural registrations last year took them out of that mix of being eligible for that registration. Therefore left them in some new class of commercial, or construction vehicle, tractor registrations, which are subject to town taxes and what have you. Which was very expensive in some cases. $200, $300 and $400 to register that vehicle to go out and maintain the trail.

So that led us down the road to looking at a trail-maintaining vehicle, whether it be a snowmobile type groomer or an OHRV for summer time trails. As long as it was being used for the maintenance of the trails a registration for those vehicles. That's what you have before you today the $5 fee. Captain Wasurno from Fish and Game if he's not here, will be shortly

explained that registration process to you. But it's a $5 fee, which covers just the administrative cost of developing that yearly registration.

We feel this is the best thing to do. Its no real loss of money to the program but it will help these volunteers so they don't have to go out and have cookie sales and bake sales just to raise enough money to pay for the registration to go out and to work on the trails. We really support this and we hope that you receive fit to passage. Thank you.

Senator Edward M. Gordon, D. 2: Thank you. Any questions? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony.

Paul Gray: Thank you.

Senator Edward M. Gordon, D. 2: Jeffrey Lyons?

Jeffrey Lyons: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I don't really have any prepared testimony. My name is Jeffery Lyons, I'm the Executive Director of the New Hampshire Snow Mobile Association. For everything that has already been said from Senator Below and from Chief Gray we support this measure.

We believe it will be beneficial to our clubs, which do put in hundreds of hours per week maintaining and building and developing and grooming the trail system, 6,000 miles of trails in the state of New Hampshire, and they do it on their own time. We feel this is something that would be positive to assist our clubs in this effort.

Senator Edward M. Gordon, D. 2: Questions? Thank you. I have no one else who has signed up to speak. Darrel Covell does not wish to speak but has signed up in opposition. That's the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation. Is there any one else who does wish to speak on SB 381? Seeing no one I'll call the public hearing to a close.

**Hearing closed at 3:52 PM**

*Respectfully submitted,*
*Jillian Nina Mason, Secretary*

# Speakers

# SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Date 2-15-00 Time 2:45pm Public Hearing on SB381-FN

**Appearing in FAVOR:** (Please print) **Please check box at left to speak.**

| Speaking? | Name | Address | Representing |
|---|---|---|---|
| ☑ | Paul Gray | | DRED Trails Bureau |
| ☑ | Jeffrey Lyon | | NHSA |
| ☐ | Rep P.M Roberts | | Ches 4 |
| ☑ | Sen. Clifton Below | | Dist 5 |
| ☐ | | | |
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**Appearing in OPPOSITION:** (Please Print) **Please check box at left to speak.**

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|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ | Darrel Covell | | NHWF |
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# Testimony

# New Hampshire Wildlife Federation

*Affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation*

*54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301*

*Phone: (603) 224-5953* *E-mail: nhwf@aol.com*

*Fax: (603) 228-0423* *Web: www.nhwf.org*


Date: February 15, 2000

To: NH Senate Environment Committee

From: Darrel Covell, Executive Director

RE: Persons eligible to testify on behalf of the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation

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The following people are eligible to testify on behalf of the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation before your committee during the 2000 Legislative Session:

**Unpaid members of the Board of Directors:**

- Jim Applegate, P.O. Box 6307, Manchester, NH 03108
- William Carney, 526 Clinton Street, Bow, NH 03304
- Richard Graham, P.O. Box 786, West Ossipee, NH 03890
- John Gryval, 5 Elmer Avenue, Hooksett, NH 03106
- Sharon Guaraldi, 21 Bank Street, Lebanon, NH 03766
- William Koury, 5 Hardwood Drive, Windham, NH 03087
- John Monson, 24 Wellesley Drive, Bedford, NH 03110
- Peter Stanley, P.O. Box 1343, New London, NH 03257

**Paid staff members (registered lobbyists):**

- Darrel Covell, P.O. Box 80, Canterbury, NH 03224
- Dorothy "Dijit" Taylor, 660 Hopkinton Road, Hopkinton, NH 03229

**Please, be aware that the above individuals may occasionally testify on their own behalf or on behalf of another organization. It should be clear in their opening remarks on whose behalf they are testifying.**

# Committee Report

Date: February 15, 2000 Time: 2:45 PM

The Senate Committee on Transportation held its hearing in Room 104-LOB, Concord, New Hampshire.

**BILL NO.:** SB 381-FN TITLE: (New Title) relative to registration fees for off-highway recreational vehicles.

Members of the Committee present: Senator Gordon
Senator Below
Senator Russman

Those appearing in favor:

| Name and Address | Representing |
|---|---|
| See Attached. | |

Those appearing in opposition:

| Name and Address | Representing |
|---|---|
| See Attached. | |

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE:**

- ☒ Ought to Pass
- ☐ Ought to Pass w/ Amendment
- ☐ Inexpedient to Legislate
- ☐ Rereferred
- ☐ Interim Study
- ☐ Continued Hearing
- ☐ Postponed Hearing

# STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

# SENATE

# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Date:

THE COMMITTEE ON Transportation

to which was referred Senate Bill 381-FN

AN ACT relative to registration fees for off-highway recreation vehicles.

VOTE: 3-0

Having considered the same, report the same without amendment and recommend that the bill: **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Senator Clifton Below
For the Committee

# |SB381 Docket

Next|Prev|Results List|Main|Bill Status

**Bill Title:** (New Title) relative to registration fees for off-highway recreational vehicles.

| Date | Body | Description |
|---|---|---|
| 1/5/2000 | S | Introduced and Ref. to Transportation; SJ Convening Day, Pg. 11 |
| 1/6/2000 | S | Hearing, Jan. 25, Room 104, LOB, 3:00 p.m.; SC1, Pg.6 |
| 1/19/2000 | S | ==TIME CHANGE== Jan. 25, Room 104, LOB, 2:45 p.m.; SC5, Pg.3 |
| 1/26/2000 | S | ==RESCHEDULED==Feb.15, Room 104, LOB, 2:45 p.m.; SC6, Pg.6 |
| 2/16/2000 | S | Committee Report, Ought to Pass; SC12, Pg.3 |
| 2/17/2000 | S | Ought to Pass, MA, VV, OT3rdg, MA, VV; SJ 4, Pg.107 |
| 2/24/2000 | H | Introduced and ref to Res, Rec & Dev; HJ19, p564 |
| 2/24/2000 | H | Copy to Chairman on 2/24/2000 due Early f |
| 2/24/2000 | H | Hearing Mar 7 11:00 RM305,LOB |
| 3/21/2000 | H | Maj Report OTP for Mar 29 (vote 16-0;CC) |
| 3/29/2000 | H | Passed; HJ28, p901-902 + 928 |
| 3/30/2000 | H | Enrolled Am {3998}(New Title), Adopted; HJ35, p1055 |
| 4/6/2000 | S | Enrolled Am {3998}(New Title}, Adopted; SJ 9, Pg.286 |
| 4/13/2000 | S | Enrolled Bill; Adopted; SJ 10, Pg.297 |
| 4/13/2000 | H | Enrolled; HJ35, p1095 |
| 4/21/2000 | S | Signed by the Governor on 4/21/2000 Eff: 7/1/2000 Chap: 0085 |

Next|Prev|Results List|Main|Bill Status

*Docket Abbreviations*