# Bill as Introduced

SB 315-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

2002 SESSION

02-3023
10/09

SENATE BILL ***315-FN***

AN ACT relative to requiring payment of a club assistance program fee by persons registering snow traveling vehicles who are not members of an organized snowmobile club.

SPONSORS: Sen. Burns, Dist 1

COMMITTEE: Transportation

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires a person registering a snow traveling vehicle to pay a club assistance program fee unless the person is a member of an organized nonprofit New Hampshire snowmobile club and the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association.

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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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

2/14/02 2574s

02-3023
10/09

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Two*

AN ACT relative to requiring safety and education training for persons registering snow traveling vehicles.

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

1 New Section; OHRVs; Snow Traveling Vehicles; Club Assistance Program Fee Added. Amend RSA 215-A by inserting after section 23-a the following new section:

215-A:23-b Snow Traveling Vehicles; Club Assistance Program Fee.

I. Any person required to register a snow traveling vehicle under RSA 215-A:23, I, II, or III shall at the time of registration pay a club assistance program fee of $30, unless exempted under paragraph II. Of the $30 fee, one dollar shall be retained by the registration agent as an administrative fee.

II. A person registering a snow traveling vehicle under RSA 215-A:23, I, II, or III who provides proof at time of registration that the person is a member of an organized New Hampshire nonprofit snowmobile club and a member of the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association, shall be exempt from the payment of the fee in paragraph I.

III. All moneys collected by the fish and game department from the club assistance program fee under this section shall be appropriated to the department of resources and economic development for the bureau's grant-in-aid program to be used by organized, nonprofit snowmobile clubs for the construction and maintenance of snowmobile trails and facilities as provided in RSA 215-A:23, VI(b).

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

1

LBAO
02-3023
9/24/01

## SB 315-FN - FISCAL NOTE

AN ACT relative to requiring safety and education training for persons registering snow traveling vehicles.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

The Fish and Game Department has determined that this bill will increase state restricted revenues and expenditures by an indeterminable amount in FY 2002 and each year thereafter. There is no fiscal impact on county and local revenues or expenditures.

### METHODOLOGY:

The Department states that restricted revenue will increase by the number of $10 safety and education decals sold, net of the amount retained by selling agents. If all registered machines received decals, decal sales would total $650,520, with $260,208 distributed to Fish & Game, $260,208 distributed to the Department of Resources and Economic Development, and $130,104 retained by the selling agent.

The Department could not determine the amount expenditures would increase, though it could be significant due to the increase in required enrollment in safety and education classes. Additional costs would include the cost of decals, student packets, supplies, staff time, and other compliance costs.

The Department also states that further clarification of the language in this bill is necessary to determine at what level that course fees will be charged; per person, per club, or some combination. It is also not clear to the Department if people are to be permitted to use prior coursework over the past four years to comply with this requirement.

# Amendments

Rep. Royce, Ches. 9
March 27, 2002
2002-3126h
10/04

Amendment to SB 315-FN

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT increasing the OHRV registration fee for snow traveling vehicles.

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 OHRV Registration Fees; Resident Individuals; Snow-traveling Vehicles Fees. Amend RSA 215-A:23, I to read as follows:

I. Individual resident registration-$26 for each 2-wheeled trail bike registration, [~~$45~~] ***$55*** for each snow traveling vehicle registration, or $35 for each other OHRV registration upon presentation of resident tax receipt, or a valid New Hampshire driver's license issued to a person 18 years of age or older.

(a) The first $7 of each 2-wheeled trail bike registration, [~~$25~~] ***$35*** for each snow traveling vehicle registration, or $16 of each other OHRV registration shall be appropriated to the department of resources and economic development for administration of the bureau's grant-in-aid program pursuant to paragraph VI.

(b) From the balance, $10.30 from each snow traveling vehicle registration or $9.30 from each 2-wheeled trail bike or other OHRV registration shall be appropriated to the department of resources and economic development for administration of the bureau for the purposes listed in paragraph VII, and $9.70 shall be appropriated to the department of fish and game for the purposes listed in paragraph VIII.

2 OHRV Registration Fees; Nonresident Individuals; Snow-traveling Vehicles Fees. Amend RSA 215-A:23, III to read as follows:

III. Individual nonresident registration-$36 for each 2-wheeled trail bike registration, [~~$60~~] ***$70*** for each snow traveling vehicle registration, or $45 for each other OHRV registration.

(a) The first $13 of each 2-wheeled trail bike registration, [~~$36~~] ***$46*** of each snow traveling vehicle registration, or $22 of each other OHRV registration shall be appropriated to the department of resources and economic development for administration of the bureau's grant-in-aid program pursuant to paragraph VI.

(b) From the balance, $12.10 from each snow traveling vehicle registration or $11.10 from each 2-wheeled trail bike or other OHRV registration shall be appropriated to the department of resources and economic development for administration of the bureau for the purposes listed in

paragraph VII, and $11.90 shall be appropriated to the department of fish and game for the purposes listed in paragraph VIII.

3 Grant-in-aid Program; Bureau of Trails; Fee Increase Designation. The bureau of trails in the department of resources and economic development shall initially use the $10 fee increase for snow traveling vehicles under sections 1 and 2 of this act for the purpose of lowering the match percentages required of OHRV clubs to receive money under the grant-in-aid program for costs related to developing, improving, or maintaining trails or facilities used by snow traveling vehicles. The commissioner of the department of resources and economic development shall adopt or amend the grant-in-aid program rules as appropriate.

4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

2002-3126h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill increases the OHRV registration fee for snow traveling vehicles and initially designates the revenue to the grant-in-aid program of the bureau of trails in order to lower the match percentages of OHRV clubs receiving money for snow traveling vehicle trail work.

# Committee Minutes

# State of New Hampshire

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCORD

# MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** **October 10, 2002**

**TO:** **Members of the Resources, Recreation & Development Committee**

**FROM:** **Rep. H. Charles Royce, Chairman**
296 Mountain Road, Jaffrey NH 03452-5932
(603) 532-8023

**SUBJECT:** **Executive Session for SB 315-FN, relative to requiring payment of a club assistance program fee by persons registering snow traveling vehicles who are not members of an organized snowmobile club**

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend a full-committee meeting:

***Wednesday, October 23, 2002 at***
***10:00 a.m. in LOB Room 305***

The Interim Study Committee has a report ready for the full Resources, Recreation and Development Committee to act upon. We will need a quorum to hold an Executive Session.

Please call me at 532-8023 or e-mail me at royce1932@yahoo.com no later than Friday, October 18, to advise me if you will be present at this important meeting.

HCR:co

cc: Joel Anderson, Researcher

# Speakers

# SIGN UP SHEET

To Register Opinion If Not Speaking

Bill # SB 315 FN Date March 13, 2002

Committee Resources, Recreation + Development

** Please Print All Information **

| Name | Address | Phone | Representing | (check one) Pro | Con |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rep Carol Williams | 127 Prout Ave Man | 624-5885 | | ✓ | |
| [illegible] | 43 Blaisdell Dr Northwood | 942-8303 | c/bs | ✓ | |
| John Foster | 56 SOUTHGATE Rd. | 938-2105 | | | ✓ |
| Russell Berry | 2 Moore Rd Newport | 863-9155 | | ✓ | |
| Robert J. Graham | 21 Mountlondon Mt. Rd. | MOULTONBORO | | ✓ | |
| Chester A. Butler Jr | 20 Nilberry Lane | New Hampton | | ✓ | |
| REP. Chandler V. Fairbanks | | Cheshire 18 | | | ✓ |
| Rod MacDonald | BOX 276 | Moultonboro | | ✓ | |
| William Baker | 91 Jenness Pond Rd | Catisfield | | ✓ | |
| Bill [illegible] | | | | ✓ | |
| DOUG Moore | Centre Harbor | | | ✓ | |
| Hans Cabana | London N.H | | | ✓ | |
| GLENN D CLARK VR | | | | X | |
| JOHN R VIOCETTE | | | | X | |
| Norm Peckoke | | | | ✓ | |
| WAYNE HALL | | | | ✓ | |
| Irene Russell | PO Box 163 | greenfield NH | 547-2722 | ✓ | |
| Paula Cabana | Loudon NH | | | ✓ | |
| [illegible] | Loudon NH | | | ✓ | |
| Janine Rattee | Loudon NH | | | ✓ | |
| Cliff Rumley | Grenfield NH | | | ✓ | |
| Gary Phinizy | Sullivan 7 | | | ✓ | |
| JOHN ALGER | GRAFTON 9 | | | ✓ | |

# Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC HEARING ON SB 315-FN

**BILL TITLE:** (New Title) relative to requiring payment of a club assistance program fee by persons registering snow traveling vehicles who are riot members of an organized snowmobile club.

**DATE:** March 13, 2002

**LOB ROOM:** 305 & 307 **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 2:00 p.m.

**Time Adjourned:** 4:28 p.m.

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. Royce, Lawton, R. Cooney, Roberts, Fields, Czech, Gallus, D. Russell, Bruno, D. Christensen, Dewhirst, Odell, Quimby, Spang, C. Williams, Lefebvre, Lovett, Zerba, McGuire and Rush

Bill Sponsors: Sen. Burns, Dist 1

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

**Rep. Gene Chandler, Speaker of the House** - Supports study. Introduced bill. Not in opposition, but favors study. He rides snowmobiles 2-3 times a winter. The IP land is open to snowmobiles though some want restrictions. There is a problem with mandatory fees. This bill will not help volunteerism. Membership in NH Association is a concern. Non-resident fee of $62 could keep people from the state. 10% of agents in southern NH register 50% of snowmobiles. Will people join 2 clubs? He is concerned about the economy of the North Country.

Rep. Lefebvre: Could this be compared to auto registrations? ANS: A study could address issue.

**Rep. Paul A. McGuirk** - Supports the bill. He is a member of a Walpole snowmobile club and the NH Snowmobile Assoc. Supports bill 1,000%. It is a user fee. Snowmobiling is built on volunteers, who are critical. This bill will give clubs extra money. Members do have dual membership. Believes in user fees. Member fees are generally less than $30.

Chairman Royce: Several people run on their own property and occasionally use other land. They do not belong to club and why should they pay $30? ANS: There are a small number of them.

Rep. Czech: Why is there a concern about registrations in the south when money will go in one pot? ANS: Money is based on miles of trails. What is the benefit for North? ANS: South people go north.

Rep. Lawton: If one joins southern club, money goes to southern club? ANS: Part of dues stays in club, come to state. Extra $30 goes where? ANS: To Fish & Game.

Rep. Fields: Should we add skiers if they go on snowmobile trails? ANS: Some trails are shared with ATV, hikers, skiers, etc.

**Senator Harold Burns** - Supports the bill. The main reason for the bill is that snowmobilers bring $400M to the North Country. The choice would be to join a club or pay $30.

Chairman Royce: If someone in the south belongs to a local club, money would go to a north club? ANS: The opposite is that southern members go north for trails. The $12 club fee qualifies instead of $30? ANS: They go in a club of their choice.

Rep. Quimby: Is the $12 club fee average? A: Do not know.

Rep. Christensen: One can join a club to avoid the $30 fee, and $10 goes to the state Org? ANS: I have no problem with that.

Rep. Fields: Could some of the $400M impact be used for trails? ANS: That is the overall impact.

**Rep. David Bickford** - Supports the bill. He supports the bill since trails are good for tourism. Volunteers do much work. This is limited to snowmobilers. ATV use trails and needs to be addressed. ATV registration may be going to $90.

Chairman Royce: How will this increase volunteerism? ANS: I do not think it will.

Rep. Russell: Do snow-traveling vehicles include ATV's? ANS: The Bureau of Trails says ATV's are included.

*** Dana Cabana, President, NH Snowmobile Association** - Supports the bill. Written testimony, attached, plus document. (Joined by James Bianco)

Chairman Royce: Where is the $30 to go? ANS: $1 to agent, etc. Would the state mandate that you belong to a club? ANS: There are a lot of mandates.

Rep. Czech: Why do so many not join? ANS: Do not know.

Rep. McGuire: Are all clubs affiliated with the state organization? ANS: Yes.

Chairman Royce: The NH Association is registered with the state, but other organizations are possible.

Rep. Cooney: Could a "pseudo club" be organized for the $30 fee and charge only a minimal fee? ANS: We would not allow that.

Rep. Christensen: Will there still be a problem with diminishing volunteerism? ANS: Possible, but hopefully not. Has an economic analysis been done to maybe raise fees? ANS: Could, but we still have 9,000 people not paying or working. The bill affects only snowmobiles.

Chairman Royce: Noted that the registration fee was raised $10 in the last session.

**(Mr. Bianco)**: A registration increase would charge the same people again. The $30 would benefit the Bureau of Trails. The match for equipment is 40%.

Rep. Bruno: 60% comes from grant aid? ANS: Yes.

Rep. Fields: About Chart 1, could it be revamped? ANS: Grant in aid set by rules (Mr. Bianco passed out document).

Rep. Odell: Has difficulty with the choices, join association or pay high fee, is this constitutional? ANS: (By Mr. Bianco) There is no constitutional problem. Vermont & Quebec do similar stuff, it stops free loaders. The use is different among users, it is not freeloading? ANS: Some are free loading.

Chairman Royce: What about the ones who do not use much? ANS: Some will have unfair burden.

Rep. Rush: Would you have to be both local and NH Assoc. member? ANS: All clubs belong to NH Snowmobile Assoc. or individuals can by $10 fee.

Rep. Russell: Are you automatically a member of the NH State Association if you are a club member? ANS: No. Pittsburg has 1100 members, many of whom are members of other clubs.

Rep. Christensen: Of the 29,000 registered snowmobiles, how many are members of NH clubs? ANS: 9,000.

Rep. McGuire: Do you have plans for the anticipated increase in revenue? ANS: We have some plans. Mr. Bianco noted that the bill covers snowmobiles only, not OHRVs.

**Peter Gagne** - Opposes the bill. Has concern that the agent's work is worth more than $1. That is not enough money. It takes 15 minutes to register and we must be bonded. Registration should be on line.

Rep. Lefebvre: What is the bond cost? ANS: $240. Cost of rental machines may be $30. Agent fee should be $3-5.

**Stephanie Lassonde, Pittsburg Ridge Runners** - Opposes the bill. Read statement. She is a club officer. Club has 1157 members and it is increasing. Paid position would be required. More money would be required. Their budget is set by December. There is a rental issue. Club majority are not completely happy with the bill. 209 belong to the NH Assoc. Club membership is $15 single, $25 family. Donations are given. We have $300K operating expense. Loss of $17 is possible.

Chairman Royce: Is the club the largest in the state? ANS: Yes. Are all clubs members of the State Assoc.? ANS: Yes, but not all members.

Rep. Spang: The option to join a club may not be available at the time of registration? ANS: Join ahead of time.

Rep. Gallus: Of the $300K, how much is grant aid? ANS: About $100K. How many members are not in Coos County? ANS: Most members come from the south and from Mass.

Rep. Odell: If the object is more volunteers, what is the status in your club? ANS: Turnouts are generally about 30, on weekends about 30-40. About 100 members are active. We have 7 paid groomer drivers. We have 400 miles of trails and maintain 200-250 miles.

**Betsy Graham, Carroll County NHSA** - Supports the bill. 9 of 10 clubs are all for bill. The clubs provide information and safety information.

**Steven Kiley, Pittsburg Ridge Runners** - Supports the bill, but not working mechanics. He is a groomer driver. We need to do something. We got the bill on March 5 and have not had time to digest its content. The working mechanics are impossible. In my club, it was impossible to raise the membership fee by $5 this year. Cannot support the bill as written.

Chairman Royce: How can you get 113 clubs to agree? ANS: By majority rule.

Rep. Lefebvre: Do other clubs have the same problem? A: Do not know.

Rep. Russell: Could you prepare amendments? ANS: That is what we want.

Rep. Christensen: Has volunteerism diminished lately? ANS: They are the same people over the last 5 years. Would a 12-month delay in this bill be OK? ANS: Yes, if it came back.

Rep. Bruno: Could we get a copy of the mechanics? ANS: We could provide it.

Rep. Fields: How many miles do you do a day? ANS: We do from 60-80 miles a shift. Do you rent out the groomers? ANS: No.

*** Harold Case, NHSA** - Supports the bill. Written testimony, attached. 112 of 113 clubs want this.

**Wayne Hall, Southern NH Snow Slickers** - Supports the bill. He picks up members from shows (100-150 members). Some do not know what it takes to maintain trails, etc. He is very much in favor of the bill.

Rep. Fields: Do you have small trails? ANS: We have 90 miles and a big groomer.

*** Ronald Bootz, NHSA** - Supports the bill. Written testimony, attached. Membership is getting older, new blood is needed.

Rep. Bruno: Is this a personal statement? ANS: Yes.

*** Charles Kurtz, Coos County Director of NHSA** - Supports the bill. NHSA membership total dues are $40K.

Rep. Lefebvre: Do you have a big problem with Pittsburg? ANS: We are going to Pittsburg to discuss this.

**Chester Butcher, Mohawk Trail Riders** - Supports the bill. Stated their support of the bill.

**Jeffrey Balch, NHSA** - Supports the bill. We have 19 clubs with 1500 members. 16 clubs support the bill, 3 are undecided. Mechanics are not covered by the bill.

**William Baker, Northwood Crankpullers & Suncook Valley Riders** - Supports the bill. Hopes the bill passes. Trail permits should be required. Trail closings cause problems. ATV's cause problems. Volunteers are burnt out. With more money, we could hire people.

**Cliff Russell, Crotched Mountain Ridge Runners** - Supports the bill. 11 clubs in Hillsboro County support the bill. It is time to do it.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Richard T. Cooney
Clerk

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

## PUBLIC HEARING ON SB 315-FN

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**Bill Sponsors:** Sen. Burns, Dist 1

### TESTIMONY

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## PUBLIC HEARING ON SB 315

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**Bill Sponsors:** Sen Burns

### TESTIMONY

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Public Hearing opened at 2:06 PM by Chairman Royce

REP CHANDLER – CAR 1 – SUPPORTS STUDY

Introduced bill. Not in opposition, but favors study. He rides snowmobiles 2-3 times a winter. The IP land is open to snowmobiles though some want restrictions. There is a problem with mandatory fees. This bill will not help volunteerism. Membership in NH Association is a concern. Non-resident fee of $62 could keep people from the state. 10% of agents in southern NH register 50% of snowmobiles. Will people join 2 clubs? He is concerned about the economy of the North Country.

Lefebvre: Could this be compared to auto registrations? A study could address issue.

REP. MCGUIRK – CHESIRE 1 – SUPPORTS

He is a member of a Walpole snowmobile club and the NH Snowmobile Assoc. Supports bill 1,000%. It is a user fee. Snowmobiling is built on volunteers, who are critical. This bill will give clubs extra money. Members do have dual membership. Believes in user fees. Member fees are generally less than $30.

Royce: Several people run on their own property and occasionally use other land. They do not belong to club and why should they pay $30? A: There are a small number of tem.

Czech: Why is there a concern about registrations in the south when money will go in one pot? A: Money is based on miles of trails.

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? Extra $30 goes where? A: To Fish & Game.

Fields: Should we add skiers if they go on snowmobile trails? A: Some trails are shared with ATV, hikers, skiers, etc.

SEN. BURNS – PRIME SPONSOR – SUPPORTS

The main reason for the bill is that snowmobilers bring $400M to the North Country. The choice would be to join a club or pay $30.

Royce: If someone in the south belongs to a local club, money would go to a north club? A: The opposite is that southern members go north for trails.
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Christensen: One can join a club to avoid the $30 fee, and $10 goes to the state Org? A: I have no problem with that.

Fields: Could some of the $400M impact be used for trails? A: That is the overall impact.

REP. BICKFORD – NEW DURHAM – SUPPORTS

He supports the bill since trails are good for tourism. Volunteers do much work. This is limited to snowmobilers. ATV use trails and needs to be addressed. ATV registration may be going to $90.

Royce: How will this increase volunteerism? A: I do not think it will.

Russell: Do snow-traveling vehicles include ATVs? A: The Bureau of Trails says ATVs are included.

DANA CABANA – PRESIDENT OF NH SNOWMOBILE ASSOC – SUPPORTS (joined by James Bianco)

Written testimony, attached, plus document.

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? Would the state mandate that you belong to a club? A: There are a lot of mandates.

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Rush: Would you have to be both local and NH Assoc. member? A: All clubs belong to NH Snowmobile Assoc. or individuals can by $10 fee.

Russell: Are you automatically a member of the NH State Assoc. if you are a club member? A: No. Pittsburg has 1100 members, many of whom are members of other clubs.

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McGuire: Do you have plans for the anticipated increase in revenue? A: We have some plans.
Mr. Bianco noted that the bill covers snowmobiles only, not OHRVs.

PETER GAGNE – SMALL BUSINESS – OPPOSED

Has concern that the agent's work is worth more than $1. That is not enough money. It takes 15 minutes to register and we must be bonded. Registration should be on line.

Lefebvre: What is the bond cost? A: $240. Cost of rental machines may be $30. Agent fee should be $3-5.

STEPHANIE LASSONDE – PITTSBURG RIDGE RUNNERS – OPPOSED

Read statement. She is a club officer. Club has 1157 members and it is increasing. Paid position would be required. More money would be required. Their budget is set by December. There is a rental issue. Club majority are not completely happy with the bill. 209 belong to the NH Assoc. Club membership is $15 single, $25 family. Donations are given. We have $300K operating expense. Loss of $17 is possible.

Royce: Is the club the largest in the state? A: Yes.
? Are all clubs members of the State Assoc? A: Yes, but not all members.

Spang: The option to join a club may not be available at the time of registration? A: Join ahead of time.

Gallus: Of the $300K, how much is grant aid? A: About $100K.
? How many members are not in Coos County? A: Most members come from the south and from Mass.

O'Dell: If the object is more volunteers, what is the status in your club? A: Turnouts are generally about 30, on weekends about 30-40. About 100 members are active. We have 7 paid groomer drivers. We have 400 miles of trails and maintain 200-250 miles.

BETTY GRAHAM – CARROLL COUNTY NHSA – SUPPORTS

9 of 10 clubs are all for bill. The clubs provide information and safety information.

STEVEN KILEY – PITTSBURG RIDGE RUNNERS – SUPPORTS, BUT NOT WORKING MECHANICS

He is a groomer driver. We need to do something. We got the bill on March 5 and have not had time to digest its content. The working mechanics are impossible. In my club, it was impossible to raise the membership fee by $5 this year. Cannot support the bill as written.

Royce: How can you get 113 clubs to agree? A: By majority rule.

Lefebvre: Do other clubs have the same problem? A: DNK

Russell: Could you prepare amendments? A: That is what we want.

Christensen: Has volunteerism diminished lately? A: They are the same people over the last 5 years.
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Bruno: Could we get a copy of the mechanics? A: We could provide it.

Fields: How many miles do you do a day? A: We do from 60-80 miles a shift.
? Do you rent out the groomers? A: No.

HAROLD CASE – NHSA – SUPPORTS

Written testimony, attached.

112 of 113 clubs want this.

WAYNE HALL – SOUTHERN NH SNOW SUCKERS – SUPPORTS

He picks up members from shows (100-150 members). Some do not know what it takes to maintain trails, etc. He is very much in favor of the bill.

Fields: Do you have small trails? A: we have 90 miles and a big groomer.

RONALD BOOTZ – NHSA – SUPPORTS

Written testimony, attached.

Membership is getting older, new blood is needed.

Bruno: Is this a personal statement? A: Yes.

CHARLES KURTZ – COOS COUNTY DIRECTOR OF NHSA – SUPPORTS

NHSA membership total dues are $40K.

Lefebvre: Do you have a big problem with Pittsburg? A: We are going to Pittsburg to discuss this.

CHESTER BUTCHER – MOHAWK TRAIL RIDERS – SUPPORTS

Stated their support of the bill.

JEFFREY BATCH – NHSA – SUPPORTS

We have 19 clubs with 1500 members. 16 clubs support the bill, 3 are undecided. Mechanics are not covered by the bill.

WILLIAM BAKER – NORTHWOOD CRANKPULLERS & SUNCOOK VALLEY RIDERS – SUPPORTS

Hopes the bill passes. Trail permits should be required. Trail closings cause problems. ATVs cause problems. Volunteers are burnt out. With more money, we could hire people.

CLIFF RUSSELL – CROTCHED MTN RIDGE RUNNERS – SUPPORTS

11 clubs in Hillsboro County support the bill. It is time to do it.

HEARING CLOSED AT 4:28 PM

# Sub-Committee Actions

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

## SUBCOMMITTEE WORK SESSION ON SB 315-FN

**BILL TITLE:** (New Title) relative to requiring payment of a club assistance program fee by persons registering snow traveling vehicles who are not members of an organized snowmobile club.

**DATE:** March 26, 2002

**Subcommittee Members:** Reps. Odell, Cooney, Russell, McGuire, & Zerba

**Comments and Recommendations:**

**Amendments:**

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

**Motions:** OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Cooney

Seconded by Rep. Odell

Vote: 4-1

**Motions:** OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

Vote:

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Bob Odell
Subcommittee Chairman/Clerk

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**SUBCOMMITTEE WORK SESSION ON SB 315-FN**

**BILL TITLE:** (New Title) relative to requiring payment of a club assistance program fee by persons registering snow traveling vehicles who are not members of an organized snowmobile club.

**DATE:** 3-26-02

**Subcommittee Members:** Reps. Odell, Cooney, Russell, McGuire, + Zerba
Y Y Y Y N

**Comments and Recommendations:**

**Amendments:**

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

**Motions:** OTP, OTP/A, ITL, (Interim Study) (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Cooney

Seconded by Rep. Odell

Vote: 4-1

**Motions:** OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

Vote:

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Bart Odell
Subcommittee Chairman/Clerk

SB 315 — 10:00 (1)

Cooney, McGee, Zuber, Odell, Russell

* McGee *
* Cooney * good objectives
- NHSA
Family Membership
Restraint

x Russell — support of clubs
- NHSA

- Zuber — snowmobiles untracked
add fees by users

Bianco — NHSA
clubs be members of NHSA
** new club question re NHSA
* amateur restoration option ( )

Zuber — *30 across the board — credit —

Bianco — *30, simplify collection process
change in collection mechanism

Russell — club membership

Bianco —

Cooney — Central Issue

Brasino — Zerba/Roberts would not change rentals —

McGinnis — paid volunteers — farm machinery — payments to DORED Consultant

Brasino — gather funding sources work with people who aren't help helping

McCorkle — Broad view.
Conroy — funding Formula
Kurtz — Education & Safety
Peer pressure

McGinnis — Dual System —
Conroy — Raise registration fees
Russell — Keep 2 system
Hard

Zerba — Registering
Russell — Constitutionality
Brasino — F + G Mgmt of $
Kaye — Family Clubs
Christianson — paid vs volunteer
Forced association

paid administrative
problems — no solutions
transition beyond current
situation
new people, not new volunteers

Brown
(1) Protect Integrity of System
(2) Increase Participation
(3) Eliminate problems

Cooney - $30 — ~~do~~ fee increase
$10 - 20 - 30

Spong - not as complicated -

Royce - parking

Russell - $20 - $15 GA (~~$5~~)

Interim Study Cooney Second Odell

Royce describes interim study

Zilka — Comment

Russell calls question

Roll Call 4-1

12 Noon

#15

113

# Senate Bill 315 – FN

**Objectives: Money vs. Volunteers**

Are the objectives met by this legislation?

Can you increase volunteer participation through "induced" membership? Example(s) where it has worked?

Is this the best way to raise money for clubs? For the state grant-in-aid program?

100% of $30 non club member penalty fee will go to DRED.

Should there be a sunset provision?

Is there merit in the concept of an across the board $30 annual registration fee increase with a credit being returned/deducted for club members?

**Mandatory NHSA Membership**

Generally agreed that mandatory membership in NHSA by registrant will be dropped from bill. If not mandatory by registrant, how many clubs have mandatory NHSA membership requirements for their members?

Should individual clubs be sanctioned by NHSA? Should clubs be required to be NHSA members?

**Administrative Issues**

Will registering agents be willing to handle club memberships? Should they receive increase in fee?

How will agent avoid favoritism? Won't he or she favor local clubs, their clubs?

How will money flow from agent to state/clubs?

Will those registering adhere to the "join where you ride" philosophy? How to address the "north south" issue of folks joining southern or local clubs but using northern trails? NHSA is committed to a campaign to inform agents of the need to encourage "join where you ride" program. Will competition be created between clubs for members? Will this compromise registering agents?

What document will be presented to the agent by club members to avoid $30 extra fee? Can this be standardized?

**Local Club Issues**

Do clubs have to accept any and all members sent to them via the registering agents?

Will the concept of SB 315 only work if there is a uniform club dues structure?

Many (most) club members renew by mail and thus burden on registration agents may be lessened.

What happens to the "non joiner" who uses his snow machine once or twice a year?

Assumption is that passage will bring clubs new volunteers.

# Testimony

FILE

The **foundation** of New Hampshire Snowmobiling has been the clubs and more importantly the volunteers. The New Hampshire snowmobile volunteer is critical for the New Hampshire program as it exists today. These volunteers are the backbone of the $450 million dollar impact that snowmobiling has on the economy of the State of New Hampshire. These volunteers are responsible for over 6,800 miles of trail and put in approximately 90,000 hrs of their time. They build trail, they re-route trail, they build bridges, they maintain trail, they groom trail, they raise money, they educate, they apply for state and federal grants, and they attend seminars to perfect there craft. These volunteers are public relations personnel of the State of New Hampshire that inform the public about New Hampshire snowmobiling.

Equally important is that these volunteers deal with **thousands and thousands** of **private landowners** to get **trail permissions** for **tens of thousand of acres**. Because they are members of the community, they can effectively deal with private landowner issues. These are the people that when the landowner has a problem they can reach out to someone they know to resolve these issues. In effect, without our 112 clubs and its 14,000 volunteers, snowmobiling in New Hampshire would be a lot different as we know it now, **with more of the burden being placed on the State. The New Hampshire snowmobiler expects a high quality trail system, the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association and its member clubs deliver that to the best of their ability.**

In the early 70's the legislature, through the efforts of NHSA and its member clubs, passed HB10 that paved the way for which is arguably the best funded snowmobile program in the United States. It is a model program. The problem that we have thirty years later is that foundation, that is the club, is **weakening**. The foundation needs strengthening. NHSA and its member clubs need the support of the New Hampshire legislature to pass SB315 for three reasons:

**1. Volunteerism**

At this point in time, club volunteerism is dying. The people that have done it all, as mentioned above, are getting older (if not old). They feel that it is time for other people to step up to the plate. We have clubs, that have **burnt out volunteers.** I know from my own experience that a Lakes Region club is in need of a new groomer. They are so burnt by doing those bake sales, dances,

raffles, etc., that they no longer want to do those things that are necessary to make the 40% match that is needed for the States GIA match. Those things that are important to keeping these clubs alive, are just not getting done. For this reason, the clubs feel that an infusion of new blood is necessary to keep the New Hampshire snowmobile program one of the top programs in the country. If the clubs by increasing their membership receives only 2% of those new members as volunteers, there will be 400 additional volunteers throughout the state or about 4 volunteers per club. **There is no dollar amount that can be placed on a volunteer. They are invaluable.**

**2. Funding**

For thirty years, it has been the hope of many that 100 percent club membership would come about. From a financial point of view, it is important to keep the clubs healthy. This bill will allow that to happen. The clubs realize, that not all people can volunteer. By being a club member, **all** snowmobilers will help the snowmobile clubs become more financially stable. It will put everyone on a more equal basis. At the present time, the active club member not only supports the club financially through his dues but is doing all the volunteer work that I have mentioned before. It has becomes increasingly difficult for the clubs to make payments on their grooming equipment as grant in aid pays only 60 percent of equipment purchases. This leaves the club to finance up to 40 percent of their equipment. This bill, by increasing club membership, will allow the clubs to become financially flexibility, particularly in low or no snow years. If someone decides **not** become a club member he or she will still support New Hampshire snowmobiling program by funding the CAP program whose funds will still go back into the trail system.

**3.Safety and Education**

By having a larger base of snowmobilers that are club members, it will be much easier to get the word out about such things as law changes, trail safety, safety courses etc. and all the other items that come with responsible snowmobiling. This will be accomplished through club news letters and the Snow Traveler. All 65,000 registered snowmobilers will become more aware of responsible snowmobiling.

Finally, I hope that this committee will look closely at the pro's and con's of this bill and not the politics of this bill. The passage of this bill will insure the viability of the New Hampshire snowmobile clubs and the snowmobile program. As HB10 has been the most significant piece of snowmobiling legislation in the past, the passage of SB315 will significantly strengthen this program. It will allow the snowmobile clubs and NHSA to do what they do best and that is to serve the New Hampshire snowmobiling public to the best that it possibly can. This bill is good for volunteerism, it is good for the clubs, it is good for NHSA, and it is good for the state of New Hampshire. But most importantly it is good for people that snowmobile New Hampshire.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Booth
Past President NHSA

03/08/02

Honorable H. Charles Royce
Chairman of the Resources Committee
Room 305 L.O.B.
Concord, NH

As a NH Snowmobile registration agent, it has been brought to my attention that, the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association is proposing some rather outrageous legislation in the form of SB 315 - FN. The original bill was outrageous enough but the amendment addition made 01/16/02 is a real, show stopper. If this bill is not rewritten or stopped altogether, it may very well have far-reaching economic implications. What is this going to do to our *Tourism Business?* Many NH businesses rely heavily on tourism. This proposed bill may very well alienate a large segment of the tourists, which is certain to cause long term financial devastation. I think we need to send a message. Our woods and waters are a multi use resource and are not there for the exclusive personal enjoyment of any one individual, group or private club.

The proposal of an additional $30 fee, on top of the registration for each machine, if the person is not presently a card-carrying member of the NHSA or some other snowmobile club in NH is ludicrous. *They want to* **force** *riders to either join a club or pay a user fee to ride the trails.* **Oh Yeah, they expect us, the registration agents, to be responsible for collecting the fee at the time of registration.** Does this mean that we will also be expected to supply club information and become membership outlets for any number of clubs throughout the state? The latter is sure to be a financial nightmare. Boiled down the NHSA is attempting to pass a law mandating that a government agency, through their appointed agents, which are largely of the private sector, collect funds for their non profit private organization. All the while making it law that noncompliance makes you a criminal. . Who do these people think they are? This is the America, how did this bill even get into our legislative process for debate to start with?

In the research that I have done, since I became aware of this proposal, I have discovered that NH Snowmobile Clubs and Associations as a whole have a long history of being very difficult to deal with. Their elitism and incorrigibility has made it next too impossible to develop any types of programs that would be mutually beneficial. This proposal is, just another example. They seemingly do not care who gets hurt as long as they benefit.

Due to the location of our business, we handle a very high percentage of non-residents from MA, CT, RI and ME. A significant number of these people own property here in NH and the battles that ensue over residency requirements are very discouraging and disruptive to the normal course of business. We have had to throw people out of our store because of their belligerence. The single most difficult service that we offer is snowmobile registrations. Passage of this bill will make dealing with this crowd impossible and we will no longer be able to offer this service, which means not being able to offer any type of OHRV registrations what-so-ever. I have spoke with countless other agents who will follow suit if this passes in its present form.

I am acutely aware of the impact snowmobilers have on our states economy. I also understand, somewhat, the plight NHSA has found themselves in. Working together with, effected government agencies, the Bureau of Tourism and a cross section of effected businesses throughout the state, we should be able to develop a plan that would translate into a Win / Win situation for all. What you have before you isn't that plan!

Sincerely,

Carroll & Eva Nelson
Nute's Trading Post
Rte. 16 & 153
Union, NH

FILE

**Resources, Recreation and Development Committee**

**Room 305 L.O.B.**
**March 12 2002**

**Dear Committee Members;**

**My name is Harold Case and I live in Londonderry N.H. 603-437-2848**
**I have been involved with the sport of snowmobiling since 1967 and have volunteered many hours to the advancement of snowmobiling, joining clubs and working at most committee positions, plus working my way up through the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association to Past President, I have been Chairmen of the Northeast Chapter of the International Snowmobile Council and currently I'm President of the American Council of Snowmobile Associations. These are all volunteer positions, so I have volunteered a few hours to our sport as you can see.**

**My feeling on SB 315 is this is what our state has needed for a long time. We must have a way to increase our club volunteers and by a larger membership the clubs would have more monies to off set the 40% they have to raise to do the trail maintenance, this would ease the amount they have to raise with raffles, bake sales, steak feeds, etc.**

**SB 315 gives the snowmobiler a chose; if he does not want to join a club he may pay $30.00 on his registration per machine, which will go to the Grant in Aid program to offset the 40% match the clubs have to raise. I feel that by belonging to a club we can get much needed safety information to the snowmobiler, by the clubs being involved in our safety programs and our paper the Snow Traveler which has many articles on safety in it monthly. This program would have everybody pay his or her fare share of the sport.**

**I would like to ask you to support this bill and if I can answer any question or be of any assistants please feel free to call me at my number above.**
**Thank you in advance for your support**

**Harold Case**
**NHSA past president**

I SENT THIS BY E-MAIL TO MOST OF THE COMMITTEE AND FOUR BY US MAIL. I'M MAILING YOU THESE COPIES IN CASE SOME MEMBERS DIDN'T RECEIVE THEIRS.

John Vukelich

*Thank you for supporting Easter Seals!*

File

To: Resources, Recreation & Developement Committee
From: John R. Violette

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:
My Name is John Violette and I live in Bow.
I will not be able to attend the public hearing on SB 315 FN on March 13th, however, please accept the following statement as testimony for this proceeding. I am writing in support of SB 315 FN.

What this bill would do is have snowmobilers pay an extra $30 to register their machines unless they belong to a snowmobile club and the state snowmobile association. It's a way of increasing membership in clubs and the association but allowing the freedom of choice in doing so. Dues for the Bow Pioneers, for example, is $20 per year for a single membership and $25 per year for a family membership (which includes parents and under 18 children) and those fees also include membership in the state association (NHSA). Those who choose not to join would pay an extra $30 for their registration and $29 would go to the Grant-In-Aid program. The other dollar would go to doubling the agent's fee. Last year there were 65,000 snowmobile registrations in New Hampshire and there were 9,000 members in clubs and NHSA. I recently heard that 27,000 people registered 65,000 snowmobiles. That may be possible because when my family was growing I owned five snowmobiles and all were registered in my name. When my family was down to my wife and me I owned two snowmobiles and both were registered in my name. Even so that means that less than one third of the people who register machines belong to organized snowmobiling. I have always maintained that twenty to twenty-five percent were members but I am also willing to accept thirty-three percent. Why is this important? New Hampshire has 6,800 miles of snowmobile trails and the Bureau of Trails maintains approximately 800 miles of this according to Paul Gray. The remaining 6,000 miles are maintained by snowmobile clubs and their members. They are the ones who contact landowners for permission to use their land, brush trails and build bridges, put up signs in the fall and take them down in the spring, and groom the trails in the winter. They are the ones who purchase grooming equipment ( up north they'll pay $100,000 for a groomer whereas in Bow we'll pay $10-12,000) and maintain them. Yes, we do get Grant-In-Aid to help us out. Grants come out of our registration dollars. For a piece of equipment Grant-In-Aid will allow 60 percent but the clubs have to come up with the remaining 40 percent. It's been that way since the beginning but is that fair to those of us who have been shelling out the money to make up the 40 percent and are doing all the work to boot? No, it isn't. When I first started snowmobiling the first thing I did was join the club because I felt an obligation to help out. It's not that way nowadays. Some snowmobilers believe that the state is the one responsible for maintaining all these trails and that their $47 registration fee pays for it all. There were 88,000 manhours of volunteer labor last year. And that doesn't count the amount of time put in by club members to maintain their equipment or the time of the officers, directors and club members attending meetings or doing fundraising etc. Members receive monthly bulletins from their clubs telling them of any landowner issues or trail changes; when and where the next bridge building project will take place; when and where the next trail cutting and trail brushing will occur etc. NHSA members also receive free a monthly copy of the Sno-Traveler which contains a lot of information on snowmobiling and snowmobile safety. A few years ago when New Hampshire had ten snowmobile related fatalities
in one season, Fish & Game convened a snowmobile safety committee which I was a part of and remain to this day. At that time I did an analysis with Anne Hewitt of Fish & Game and found that out of 35 deaths in previous years only one person had been a member of organized snowmobiling - less than 3 percent. Will everyone who joins do work? Of course not. As with any organization only about 10 percent really get involved but ten percnet of a larger figure means more help. And the clubs would have their phone numbers so they could at least get a call from time to time. They would also be getting much needed information and communication that would hopefully make them safer and more prudent riders. Many folks don't feel the sense of responsibility toward snowmobiling that I did years ago when I first go involved. They're happy to leave the work for somone-else to do. It's time for a change and passage of this bill will enable this change to take place. I'll close with the following statement: If it were not for the Bow Pioneers Snowmobile Club the trail system in Bow would have gone by the wayside a long, long time ago. The same can be said about most club trails throughout the state. I ask for your support for passage of this bill. Thank you for your positive consideration of this bill.

Respectfully, John Violette

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Respectfully, John Violette




# Stephanie Lassonde

**Sales Associate**

*Pittsburg, New Hampshire*

For:
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Fax: (603) 237-4793
Residence: (603) 538-1186
E-Mail: 1ctlake@ncia.net

**From:** Bob Bader <bob@littlepieceofheavenfarm.com>
**To:** Stephanie & Kevin <1ctlake@ncia.net>
**Date:** Tuesday, March 12, 2002 10:56 AM
**Subject:** RE: Bill 315, any thoughts?

Stephanie

My only concern is I think it will hurt some clubs. While I believe that the sponsors of the bill think it will give more money to smaller clubs it may work the opposite. If people join a club now, the club gets the money, lets say 15. If that same person opts to now not join the club but pays the 30 and this gets put into a pot to be distributed then the club that would have gotten 15 from this person now gets significantly less.

In theory clubs should get more money out of this, but I really have my doubts. It may hurt a club like the Ridge Runners who have a lot of members that live far away. Those people may decide to register and pay the 30 dollars knowing that a portion of that money goes to all clubs.

For me I will continue to be a member of the RR and probably some others where I ride, but I can't say that for a lot of people. I have already seen negative messages on the news group about this bill so like I said already, I have my doubts that it is going to be beneficial.

Bob

-----Original Message-----
**From:** Stephanie & Kevin [mailto:1ctlake@ncia.net]
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2002 7:29 AM
**To:** Undisclosed.Recipients@wolf.ncia.net
**Subject:** Bill 315, any thoughts?

Dear Ridge Runners,
It looks like the club is sending me to Concord tomorrow to the hearing in front of the NH House of Repredentatives to testify on thier behalf regarding the bill that is proposing the $30 fee to be applied along with the registration fee for each snowmachine. For those of you who may not be familier with this issue... the bill allows an exemption from paying the extra fee if you belong to a club and The New Hampshire Snowmobile Association. That's pretty much the basic intention. In past meetings, the membership present has applauded the concept, however has questioned the implementation of this bill without receiving satisfactory answers or corrections to the wording. Therefore, has voted not to support the bill as it is currently written.
I realize that this is short notice, but I would like to hear from anyone who has been unable to attend the club meetings before I leave tomorrow morning who may have an opinion. I will make sure to check my email tonight and tomorrow morning to see what this generates. Thanks! Stephanie Lassonde, Club Secretary

New Salem, MA.
Family Goldstar (1 year)

**From:** Richard Baum <RichardBaum@CSS-Corp.com>
**To:** Stephanie & Kevin <1ctlake@ncia.net>
**Date:** Tuesday, March 12, 2002 11:16 AM
**Subject:** RE: Bill 315, any thoughts?

---

While as a member of the Pittsburg Ridge Rubbers a bill that would force people to join a club in the area that they ride in is a good idea, if the wording in not satisfactory to the club members then I would be concerned. Does membership in the Pittsburg Ridge Runners also make you a member in the NH Snowmobile Assoc.?

Dick Baum

-----Original Message-----
**From:** Stephanie & Kevin [mailto:1ctlake@ncia.net]
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Pepperell, MA.

Family ColdStar (2 years)

**From:** Bette Abdu <babdu@lr.net>
**To:** Stephanie & Kevin <1ctlake@ncia.net>
**Date:** Tuesday, March 12, 2002 12:09 PM
**Subject:** Re: Bill 315, any thoughts?

---

Hello,
Thanks for asking for input on this important issue. My husband and I joined the Ridge Runners because we enjoy visiting Pittsburg to ride. We belong to two additional clubs in our local area (Lakes Region of NH) and joined them to help support the local clubs — this year we did not ride even one time locally. I firmly believe that membership in a club and NHSA should be a requirement and this bill seems to do that. I hope that the wording on the bill is such that you can give it support this time around.
Best Regards,
Bette Abdu
In New Hampton, NH
on 3/12/02 7:29 AM, Stephanie & Kevin at 1ctlake@ncia.net wrote:

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> It looks like the club is sending me to Concord tomorrow to the hearing in front of the NH House of Repredentatives to testify on thier behalf regarding the bill that is proposing the $30 fee to be applied along with the registration fee for each snowmachine. For those of you who may not be familier with this issue... the bill allows an exemption from paying the extra fee if you belong to a club and The New Hampshire Snowmobile Association. That's pretty much the basic intention. In past meetings, the membership present has applauded the concept, however has questioned the implementation of this bill without receiving satisfactory answers or corrections to the wording. Therefore, has voted not to support the bill as it is currently written.
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Family Regular (2 years)

**From:** VBNBDBSG@aol.com <VBNBDBSG@aol.com>
**To:** 1ctlake@ncia.net <1ctlake@ncia.net>
**Date:** Tuesday, March 12, 2002 5:30 PM
**Subject:** Re: Bill 315, any thoughts?

---

I am against this bill. I don't think it will do what they say and I think the big winner will be the NHSA, they will, in the end, control all registrations and club memberships. They will also reap increased dues as their membership increases. I also think that with the increase in NHSA activity an increase in their dues will follow.

I belong to the NHSA, why I don't know, not sure what they do, I also belong to the Pittsburg Ridge Runners and The Swift Diamond Riders. I do support the clubs where I ride, although I only get there once a year to ride.

In the end if this bill passes we will have one organization that will determine club dues for the entire state, not sure that this is a good thing.

Things seem to be getting very political and the NHSA will be the big winner if this passes.

N. Boisse

Norman Boisse, Jr. Merrimack, NH.

Goldstar family member (4 years)

**From:** Tkdrvr26@aol.com <Tkdrvr26@aol.com>
**To:** 1ctlake@ncia.net <1ctlake@ncia.net>
**Date:** Tuesday, March 12, 2002 5:40 PM
**Subject:** Re: Bill 315, any thoughts?

Mark Collins, hudson member. I think this is a very fair way to obtain funds to help our sport. If for some reason it does not help a single club, it will atleast get free-loaders to help pay their way. I am a member of 4 clubs and the NH assoc. let everybody help support the sport we all love.
Mark

Mark Collins, Hudson, NH

Family Regular (2 years)

**From:** Pam Bliss <wekskids@coopresources.net>
**To:** Stephanie & Kevin <1ctlake@ncia.net>
**Date:** Tuesday, March 12, 2002 5:50 PM
**Subject:** Re: Bill 315, any thoughts?

Stephanie,
I guess I feel like others that I'm not sure about the wording of this bill.

Even though we live in Meredith our snowmobiles are in Pittsburg for the winter and that is were we ride! I feel strongly that the areas that have more riding on their trails should get more monies than clubs in the southern part of the state.

I also feel if people are going to be charged extra that they will try to demand "groomed" trails. And clubs are still based on "volunteers". I have heard many grumblings about the trails and grooming over the past couple of years. But when asked if grumblers are members of a club the answer is most often no. To which my reply is than don't complain.

It is a privilege not an entitlement to snowmobile and that should be respected. How to get to that point I'm not sure. But mandatory fees without knowing how the money will be distributed is not the answer.

Thank you for making the long trip and representing the Club. Please feel free to copy or whatever with this e-mail.
Thanks,
Pam Bliss
Meredith, NH
603-279-5674

----- Original Message -----
**From:** Stephanie & Kevin
**To:** Undisclosed.Recipients@wolf.ncia.net
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2002 7:29 AM
**Subject:** Bill 315, any thoughts?

Dear Ridge Runners,
It looks like the club is sending me to Concord tomorrow to the hearing in front of the NH House of Repredentatives to testify on thier behalf regarding the bill that is proposing the $30 fee to be applied along with the registration fee for each snowmachine. For those of you who may not be familier with this issue... the bill allows an exemption from paying the extra fee if you belong to a club and The New Hampshire Snowmobile Association. That's pretty much the basic intention. In past meetings, the membership present has applauded the concept, however has questioned the implementation of this bill without receiving satisfactory answers or corrections to the wording. Therefore, has voted not to support the bill as it is currently written.
I realize that this is short notice, but I would like to hear from anyone who has been unable to attend the club meetings before I leave tomorrow morning who may have an opinion. I will make sure to check my email tonight and tomorrow morning to see what this generates. Thanks! Stephanie Lassonde, Club Secretary

Family Regular (3 years)
NHSA member (1 year)

3/12/2002

**From:** PRCorbeil@aol.com <PRCorbeil@aol.com>
**To:** 1ctlake@ncia.net <1ctlake@ncia.net>
**Date:** Tuesday, March 12, 2002 7:26 PM
**Subject:** Re: Bill 315, any thoughts?

My first thoughts would be how it's going to effect out of state snowmobilers will they prefer to join a club here or just travel to Maine or Vermont instead? Personally I like to belong to a club because it gives me access to information that would be difficult to get otherwise and I get a feeling that I've done a tiny bit more that just go out and ride where others have done all the work. If the goal is to get more club members that volunteer I rather doubt It'll be that sucessful. Hope this is helpful. Thanks for asking.

Paul Corbeil, Manchester, NH

Single Regular (3 years)

NHSA member (1 year)

FILE

# GRANT - IN - AID PROGRAM

| TYPE OF GRANT | STATE | CLUB |
|---|---|---|
| Construction and Maintenance Grants (May - Oct.) | Materials 100%<br><br>Equipment rental 50% | Materials - 0%<br><br>Equipment rental 50% |
| Purchase of Trail Grooming Equipment | 60% | 40% |
| Reconditioning of Trail Grooming Equipment | 80% | 20% |
| Winter Grooming | 62% | 38% |
| Snow Removal from parking lots | 50% | 50% |
| Liability Insurance for Equipment | 50% | 50% |

Source: RES 8400 rules

# New EPA 2006, e Detail *by Ed Klim*

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dustry and the vitality of many communities where snowmobiling makes a major economic contribution."

While manufacturers agree that cleaner engines will become standard for many classes of snowmobiles over the next decade, the technology is not compatible with models that have unique or particularly demanding performance requirements. Other models are produced in volumes too small to make it economically feasible to incorporate the new technology, particularly in the virtual absence of demonstrated ambient air quality benefits associated with such an investment, according to ISMA.

Klim said that every snowmobile manufacturer has been working to establish a reasonable emission rule with the EPA since 1994, when the manufacturers first hired Southwest Research Institute to proactively help the EPA develop correct emissions data on snowmobiles. According to Klim, there are no research findings that snowmobiles have a significant effect on ozone in the atmosphere. Moreover, snowmobile emissions do not cause carbon monoxide air quality violations in non-attainment areas, which are typically major metropolitan cities.

"The EPA proposal is being driven by national ambient air quality standards that are not even impacted by snowmobiles. The legal basis for regulating snowmobile engine emissions under the Clean Air Act is therefore highly questionable," said Klim. In its comments to the EPA, ISMA pledged its support for a properly-tailored regulatory program that recognizes the many unique factors that distinguish snowmobiles as a regulated category.

"It's ironic that the proposal for regulating snowmobile engine emis-

# If You Ride, Join A Club

*by Stephanie Lassonde, Secretary, Pittsburg Ridge Runners*
*Reprint courtesy of The News & Sentinel, Colebrook, NH, January 30, 2002*

The element of snowmobiling that I feel needs a lot of attention is the benefit of snowmobile clubs. Without them, there would be no snowmobiling—it's that simple. From nearly the very beginning when snowmobiles were first introduced to the area, there were clubs, perhaps in the form of just a gang of friends, who created trails and rode together for a good time.

The history of snowmobiling is full of good times, hard work, controversy, volunteerism, stepping stones, evolving technology, and friendships. Throughout all of these good and hard times, there have been clubs, and their work doesn't get any easier.

***The history of snowmobiling is full of good times, hard work, controversy, volunteerism, stepping stones, evolving technology, and friendships.***

Club's are forever struggling to maintain a social atmosphere. They have meetings for members to lead the direction of the club, plan fundraisers and outings, and throw Christmas parties to bring people together who all have an interest in common. The reality of it is that snowmobiling is a big part of today's tourism industry, and this area is becoming more dependent on it as other means of making a living disappear. As a result, the snowmobile clubs must operate as a business as the demand grows.

So far, most of a club's operations are handled on a volunteer basis, though not many rely on volunteers to groom, build, and maintain the trail system any longer. With a vast network of hundreds of miles to cover, thousands of dollars to manage, and dozens of people to organize and instruct, it takes more time than a volunteer can manage while still trying to make ends meet at home.

Unfortunately, when a club operates as a business, the fun and social aspect can easily get lost in the shuffle. One branch of the club is the one that holds the steak feeds, radar runs, and poker runs to raise money to give to Easter Seals, memorial scholarships, clubhouses, new equipment, and trail maintenance. Then there is the business end of it that applies to the state agencies for grant money, gets insurance for equipment, maintains equipment, keeps track of income and receipts payable, makes out payroll, keeps track of which trails have proper signage and which still need attention, keep good landowner relations and obtain permission for trails, sends representatives to state and local meetings to keep abreast with new regulations, keeps lines of communication open with neighboring clubs, members, Department of Recreation and Economic Development, the Trails Bureau, the police force, Fish & Game, The New Hampshire Snowmobile Association, and so much more.

Whew! I'd literally have to write a book to detail the work involved, there's simply not enough newspaper to cover it all and the mental exhaustion of reading it would discourage any sane person.

My point is this, join the club where you ride, volunteer when you are able, and show your appreciation for all that they do.

Stephanie Lassonde may be reached by phone at 538-1186 or by e-mail at 1ctlake@ncia.net

# Senate Bill 315-FN

An Act relative to requiring payment of a club assistance program fee by persons registering snow traveling vehicles who are not members of an organized snowmobile club

House Resources, Recreation & Development
March 13, 2002
2:00pm

Presented by the
New Hampshire Snowmobile Association

# Contents

1. Background. . . . . .Page 3

2. Snowmobile Clubs. . . . . .Page 4-5

3. SB 315 . . . . . .Page 6-7

4. Other States/Provinces. . . . .Pages 8-9
   - Vermont
   - Maine
   - Quebec

5. Summary. . . . . .Page 10

# Background

The sport of snowmobiling generates substantial revenue for the State of New Hampshire, approximately $400 million dollars annually (source :UNH). About 65,000 snowmobiles are registered in New Hampshire each year. New Hampshire's snowmobiling industry is governed by two agencies : the Fish & Game Department and the Department of Resources & Economic Development.

A. Fish & Game Department.

The Fish & Game Department is responsible for registration, safety and enforcement. Snowmobiles are registered by the Department of Fish & Game and its agents. Residents of the state pay $47 to register a snowmobile. Non-residents pay $62 to register a snowmobile. New Hampshire has limited reciprocity with Vermont, no reciprocity with Maine and full reciprocity with Quebec. The registration fees were increased by the Legislature during the 2001 legislative session. (HB 717). The snowmobile registration fees are collected by Fish & Game and distributed to several programs (i.e. Grant-in-Aid, search & rescue, safety & law enforcement programs). (Exhibits A & B).

B. Department of Resources & Economic Development ("DRED").

Within DRED, the Bureau of Trails is responsible for governing the construction, maintenance and grooming of the trails. The moneys which are distributed to the Bureau of Trails from the Fish & Game Department are for administration of the state's "Grant-in-Aid" programs. Grant-in-Aid programs are programs which disburse moneys back to local snowmobile clubs for the construction, maintenance and grooming of trails. Depending on the specific activity, Grant-in-Aid moneys are distributed back to the local clubs in the form of a matching grant. For example, equipment grants require a 60% - 40% match state/club) (see Dept. rules RES 8100-8500)

# Snowmobile Clubs

A. Local Snowmobile Clubs.

There are approximately 113 organized snowmobile clubs throughout New Hampshire, with an overall membership of approximately 9,000 members. The cost to join and support a local snowmobile club is minimal. Most clubs charge anywhere between $8-25 for an individual membership (most are $15-20) and $12 - $35 for a family membership (most are $20-$25).

Local snowmobile clubs are required to raise matching funds in order to access the state's "Grant-in-Aid" program administered by DRED. Snowmobile clubs raise these matching funds (in most instances 40% of the grant requested) by club dues, bake sales, and other activities, like dances. It has become increasingly difficult to raise the necessary moneys to access the program. (For example, for a grooming machine which costs about $100,000, the club needs to raise $40,000 to access the rest of the "Grant in Aid" moneys)

Local snowmobile clubs raised over $900,000 in matching aid funds and provided approximately 80,000 volunteer hours to construct, maintain and groom New Hampshire trails last year. (Exhibit C)

B. New Hampshire Snowmobile Association (NHSA)

If a person belongs to a local snowmobile club, they may become members of NHSA for $10. If a person joins more than one club, they pay NHSA dues only once. The NHSA is a not-for-profit statewide association, comprised of mainly volunteers, whose mission is to represent the interests of snowmobilers in New Hampshire. The Board of Directors of NHSA are appointed by local snowmobile clubs.

The following are the main duties of the Association:

- Act as a liaison between the clubs and state government agencies (i.e. NHSA trails committee (Res 8501.15) which works with Bureau to establish and improve trails)

- Provide education and information to its members through the Sno-Traveler newspaper.

- Coordinate snowmobile safety programs

- Provide legal and legislative representation on behalf of the clubs and its members.

**HOW MANY NON-CLUB MEMBERS ARE THERE?**

According to Fish & Game, 65,000 snowmobiles were registered in the State of New Hampshire last year. Once the dual and multiple ownership of snowmobiles is subtracted, NHSA estimates there are actually 28,770 snowmobilers.

There are 21,674 in-state resident and 7,096 non- resident registered.

New Hampshire Snowmobile Association (NHSA) has approximately 9,000 members.

Thus : 28,770 snowmobiles registered - 9,000 NHSA members
= 19,770 non-club members

If more snowmobilers become club members, not only will their dues assist the clubs in meeting the Grant- in-Aid match requirement, but there is the potential for new volunteers to assist in the work of grooming the trails.

# Senate Bill 315-FN

Senate Bill 315-FN was sponsored by Senator Harold Burns at the request of the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association. (Exhibit D) The goal of SB 315-FN is to create additional funding for the grooming of New Hampshire's 6,830 miles of snowmobile trails.

SB 315 establishes a user fee (Club Assistance Program "CAP") to be paid by all snowmobilers. Snowmobilers who belong to an organized snowmobile club will be exempt from paying the fee.

"CAP" fees will be deposited into the Grant-in-Aid program fund administered by DRED's Bureau of Trails. Grant-in-Aid program funds are disbursed back to local clubs, in the form of matching aid, to be used for trail construction, grooming and maintenance.

# SB 315 Process

How would SB 315 work? NHSA suggests the following process:

Local Snowmobile Club Member : Register snowmobile. Present a copy of a valid driver license and a copy a NHSA membership card.

Non- Club Member : Register snowmobile. If someone is not a member of a club, the person has a choice, either pay the $30 CAP fee or join a club. The names of the local clubs will be on posted list prepared by NHSA and provided to the agent.

*(In order to encourage people to join clubs where they ride, the posted list will have a slogan "Join a Club Where You Ride". The list will be prepared for each county listing all the clubs in that county.* )

- If a person wants to join a club the registration agent collects the club dues. The forms will be made out in triplicate, the customer keeps one copy, one copy is sent to the Fish and Game Dept., and one copy is sent to the NHSA office. The registration agent forwards the club dues to NHSA. NHSA will forward the dues to the clubs.

- If a person does not want to join a club and instead wishes to pay the $30 user fee, the fee would be collected by the registration agent and sent to the Fish and Game Department. The Fish and Game Department would send the fee to the Bureau of Trails to be deposited in the existing grant-in-aid program.

**HOW DO THE AGENTS HELP WITH SB 315?**

The agents receive $1 for their help in collecting the $30 user fee. NHSA will work with the agents to simplify their task in coordinating this new effort. For example, NHSA will supply the agents with self addressed, pre-stamped envelopes to mail the club application and the dues to NHSA.

NHSA will also send a mailing to all registered snowmobilers explaining how the new system will work. Because we want to minimize any disruption to agents, particularly in the first year, members of local clubs will work with the agents to answer questions from snowmobilers. NHSA anticipates that in the second year, the clubs will send out renewal applications which will remove some of the work from the agents.

# Other States/Provinces

The question has been asked - will SB 315 price New Hampshire out of the market? The answer is NO. In fact, in some other jurisdictions, the price to ride is much more. The following is a comparison of the laws and fees in other neighboring states and province of Quebec:

**Vermont**

In Vermont, registration reciprocity is granted to other jurisdictions. However, all snowmobilers are required to have a valid Vermont "Trails Maintenance Assessment" decal issued by the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers. (Exhibit E - Vermont Code 3202) In order to obtain the decal, a person must join the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) and a local snowmobile club. Non-residents can join a club be contacting VAST, a local club or by joining a club through a registration agent.

The registration fees in Vermont are :

| | |
|---|---|
| Vermont in-state registration : | $15 |
| Vermont out -of-state registration | $22 |

To obtain "Trails Maintenance Assessment" decal :

| | |
|---|---|
| Join local club : | $5 - $15 |
| Join VAST : | |
| in-state : | $55 |
| out-of- state : | $85 |

**Thus, for a New Hampshire registered snowmobiler (reciprocity), the cost to ride Vermont trails for the season is an additional $90 - $100.

**Maine**

In Maine, reciprocity is not granted to any other jurisdiction. Therefore, all snowmobilers who wish to ride in Maine must register in Maine as a non-resident. Non-resident registrations can be purchased through a Maine registration agent or on-line. (Exhibit F, Maine Code 7824)

The registration fees for a non-resident in Maine are :

| | |
|---|---|
| 3 day pass : | $41 |
| 10 day pass: | $56 |
| Full season pass: | $66 |

**Thus, for a New Hampshire registered snowmobiler (no reciprocity), the cost to ride Maine trails for the season is an additional $66.

**********

**Province of Quebec**

In Quebec, reciprocity is granted to other jurisdictions. However, to ride the trails in Quebec, and individual must obtain a "Trail Permit." Trails are maintained and operated by organized clubs and the Quebec Federation of Snowmobile Clubs, (aka F.C.M.Q. ) According to the F.C.M.Q., in order to obtain a Trail Permit, a person must join a local club. Non-residents can join a club and obtain a trail permit from a local club or F.C.M.Q.

The fees to ride in Quebec are (in Canadian $):

| | |
|---|---|
| One day: | $35 |
| One week: | $125 |
| Full season: | $180 |

**Thus, for a New Hampshire registered snowmobiler (reciprocity), the cost to ride Quebec trails for the season is an additional $180 Canadian.

# Summary

Senate Bill 315 is a good piece of legislation that will improve the viability of the State's volunteer organizations in their effort to maintain the snowmobile industry in New Hampshire.

SB 315 makes sure that all snowmobilers pay their fair share to help in the maintenance and repair of New Hampshire's trail system.

It is the hope of local snowmobile clubs, that individuals will choose to join and support a local club rather than pay the user fee, but ultimately, it is the choice of the individual. If more individuals join the clubs, the increased dues will help in raising the Grant-in-Aid match funds and there is a potential for more volunteers to do the work.

**Please Support Senate Bill 315**

New Hampshire Snowmobile Association, Inc.

722 Rte. 3A – Suite 14 • Bow, New Hampshire 03304-4010 • (603) 224-8906 • FAX (603) 226-3880

Senate Bill 315

Testimony of Dana Cabana, President, New Hampshire Snowmobile Association (NHSA)

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dana Cabana. I am the President of the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association (NHSA). I appear before you this afternoon to express my support as well as the support of the majority of the NHSA clubs for Senate Bill 315.

As you know, Snowmobiling generates a tremendous amount of revenue for the State of New Hampshire, $400 million dollars annually. Thousands of snowmobilers come to New Hampshire every winter to enjoy our 6,800 miles of trails. These trails are maintained by members of clubs who volunteer their time to ensure that trails are well groomed and safe for public use. Last year, club volunteers spent approximately 80,000 hours grooming New Hampshire's snowmobile trails.

Senate Bill 315 will help to create additional funding for the grooming of trails. The bill establishes a user fee (Club Assistance Program (CAP) to be paid by all snowmobilers except snowmobilers who belong to a snowmobile club. Fees collected will be deposited into the Grant-in-Aid Program Fund administered

by DRED. DRED will then send funds (on a matching basis) to local NH snowmobile clubs for trail construction, grooming and maintenance.

Senate Bill 315 will also increase membership in snowmobile clubs. Since non-members will have to pay the CAP fees, we believe more snowmobilers will decide to join clubs in order to avoid the additional expense. Additional membership will provide numerous benefits to the state and clubs.

All 65,000 snowmobilers using NH trails need to pay their fair share of costs to maintain the state's trail system. Currently, the burden to maintain trails falls solely on the volunteers of snowmobile clubs. Snowmobile clubs are facing a decline in membership and volunteers. This is a serious problem for the State and the sport because these clubs are charged with the maintenance of the State's trail system. Senate Bill 315 will promote the benefits of joining local snowmobile clubs as well as generate more money for clubs to use (through DRED Grant-in-Aid) for maintaining existing trails.

Increased club membership will mean an additional focus on safety for snowmobilers who join. Snowmobilers who choose to join a local club to be exempt from paying into the Club Assistance Program will benefit through increased education. Members receive club newsletters which informs them of the dates, time and locations of all safety courses held by either a club or the Department of Fish and Game.

I have a handout which we put together to assist the committee in their deliberations on SB 315. I would like to take a moment to go over the handout with you and then I would be happy to take your questions.

Thank you.

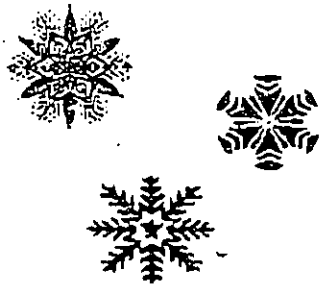
# EXHIBITS

A

A

EXHIBIT A

# SNOWMOBILE
# Resident Registration



$47.00 — Total

$1.00 — Agent Fee

$1.00 — Fish & Game Search and Rescue

| Trails Bureau | | Fish and Game |
|---|---|---|
| $35.30 | $45.00 | $9.70 |

$5.00 — Grant-In-Aid Equipment Grants

$20.00 — Grant-In-Aid Maintenance Grants

$7.30 — Trails Bureau Operations

$3.00 — Trail Maintenance

Registration
Law Enforcement
Safety Education



Color on RedSharPlus\Users\G Publisher\Resident Snowmobile Registration Increase Poster.Pub

B

B

EXHIBIT B

# SNOWMOBILE
# Non-Resident Registration

$62.00 — Total

$1.00 — Agent Fee

$1.00 — Fish & Game Search and Rescue

Trails Bureau

$48.10

$5.00 — Grant-In-Aid Equipment Grants

$31.00 — Grant-In-Aid Maintenance Grants

$9.10 — Trails Bureau Operations

$3.00 — Trail Maintenance

Fish and Game

$60.00

$11.90

Registration
Law Enforcement
Safety Education



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C

C

EXHIBIT C

| Class | Total Costs Grant-In-Aid | Club |
|---|---|---|
| Equipment | $673,993.49 | $269,597.39 |
| Construction | $441,522.22 | $220,761.11 |
| Grooming | $987,464.99 | $394,985.99 |
| Plowing | $22,549.69 | $22,549.69 |
| **TOTALS** | **$2,125,530.29** | **$907,894.18** |

As you can see the clubs share is around 33% of the total cost of $3,033,424.47.

If you divide the clubs share by the 9,000 members this means that each member has to help raise over $100 each.

D

D

EXHIBIT D

SB 315-FN – AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

2/14/02 2574s

2002 SESSION

02-3023
10/09

SENATE BILL *315-FN*

AN ACT relative to requiring payment of a club assistance program fee by persons registering snow traveling vehicles who are not members of an organized snowmobile club.

SPONSORS: Sen. Burns, Dist 1

COMMITTEE: Transportation

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires a person registering a snow traveling vehicle to pay a club assistance program fee unless the person is a member of an organized nonprofit New Hampshire snowmobile club and the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association.

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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.

SB 315-FN – AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

2/14/02 2574s

02-3023
10/09

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Two*

AN ACT relative to requiring safety and education training for persons registering snow traveling vehicles.

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

1 New Section; OHRVs; Snow Traveling Vehicles; Club Assistance Program Fee Added. Amend RSA 215-A by inserting after section 23-a the following new section:

215-A:23-b Snow Traveling Vehicles; Club Assistance Program Fee.

I. Any person required to register a snow traveling vehicle under RSA 215-A:23, I, II, or III shall at the time of registration pay a club assistance program fee of $30, unless exempted under paragraph II. Of the $30 fee, one dollar shall be retained by the registration agent as an administrative fee.

II. A person registering a snow traveling vehicle under RSA 215-A:23, I, II, or III who provides proof at time of registration that the person is a member of an organized New Hampshire nonprofit snowmobile club and a member of the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association, shall be exempt from the payment of the fee in paragraph I.

III. All moneys collected by the fish and game department from the club assistance program fee under this section shall be appropriated to the department of resources and economic development for the bureau's grant-in-aid program to be used by organized, nonprofit snowmobile clubs for the construction and maintenance of snowmobile trails and facilities as provided in RSA 215-A:23, VI(b).

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

1

LBAO
02-3023
9/24/01

## SB 315-FN - FISCAL NOTE

AN ACT relative to requiring safety and education training for persons registering snow traveling vehicles.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

The Fish and Game Department has determined that this bill will increase state restricted revenues and expenditures by an indeterminable amount in FY 2002 and each year thereafter. There is no fiscal impact on county and local revenues or expenditures.

### METHODOLOGY:

The Department states that restricted revenue will increase by the number of $10 safety and education decals sold, net of the amount retained by selling agents. If all registered machines received decals, decal sales would total $650,520, with $260,208 distributed to Fish & Game, $260,208 distributed to the Department of Resources and Economic Development, and $130,104 retained by the selling agent.

The Department could not determine the amount expenditures would increase, though it could be significant due to the increase in required enrollment in safety and education classes. Additional costs would include the cost of decals, student packets, supplies, staff time, and other compliance costs.

The Department also states that further clarification of the language in this bill is necessary to determine at what level that course fees will be charged: per person, per club, or some combination. It is also not clear to the Department if people are to be permitted to use prior coursework over the past four years to comply with this requirement.

E

E

EXHIBIT E

VERMONT LAW

**§ 3202. Registration required; exceptions for governmental entities on land owned by operator, or with landowner consent.**

(a) **Registration and decal required.** A person shall not operate a snowmobile unless registered and numbered by the state of Vermont or other state or province and displays a valid Vermont trails maintenance assessment decal adjacent to the registration decal on the left side of the snowmobile in accordance with this chapter, except when operated:

(1) on the property of the owner of the snowmobile; or

(2) off the highway, in a ski area while being used for the purpose of packing snow or in rescue operations; or

(3) for official use by a federal, state or municipal agency and only if the snowmobile is identified with the name or seal of the agency in a manner approved by the commissioner; or

(4) solely on privately owned land when the operator has the written consent of the owner, or his or her agent, of the property.

F

F

EXHIBIT F

MAINE LAW

**§7823. License**

No operator's license is required for the operation of a snowmobile.

**§7824. Registration**

**2. Fee.** Except as provided in 2-B (antique snowmobiles), the annual snowmobile registration fee is as follows:

A. **For residents**, $30. The registration for a snowmobile owned by a resident is valid for one year, commencing on July 1st; and

B. **For nonresidents**:

(1) $40 for a 3-consecutive day registration.

(2) $55 for a 10-consecutive day registration.

NOTE: A person may purchase more than one 3-day or 10-day registration in any season.

(3) $65 for a seasonal registration. The registration for a snowmobile owned by a nonresident must specify the dates for which the registration is valid.

# Voting Sheets

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

### EXECUTIVE SESSION on SB 315–FN

**BILL TITLE:** **(New Title) relative to requiring payment of a club assistance program fee by persons registering snow traveling vehicles who are not members of an organized snowmobile club.**

**DATE:** March 27, 2002

**LOB ROOM:** 305

**Amendments:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sponsor: Rep. Royce | OLS Document #: | 2002 | 3126h |
| Sponsor: Rep. Roberts | OLS Document #: | 2002 | 3106h |
| Sponsor: Rep. | OLS Document #: | | |

**Motions:** OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Cooney
Seconded by Rep. Lawton
Vote: 8-7 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

**Motions:** OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Roberts
Seconded by Rep. Zerba
Vote: 7-8 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

**Motions:** OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Cooney
Seconded by Rep. Lawton
Vote: 11-4 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

**CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE:**

(Vote to place on Consent Calendar must be unanimous.)

**Statement of Intent:** Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Richard T. Cooney, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

EXECUTIVE SESSION on SB 315–FN

**BILL TITLE:** **(New Title) relative to requiring payment of a club assistance program fee by persons registering snow traveling vehicles who are not members of an organized snowmobile club.**

**DATE:** 3-27-02

**LOB ROOM:** 305

**Amendments:**

Sponsor: Rep. ROYCE — OLS Document #: 2002-3126h

Sponsor: Rep. ROBERTS — OLS Document #: 2002 31064

Sponsor: Rep. — OLS Document #:

**Motions:** OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. COONEY

Seconded by Rep. LAWTON

Vote: 8-7 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

OTP/A
COONEY
LAWTON

11-4

**Motions:** OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. ROBERTS

Seconded by Rep. ZERBA

Vote: 7-6 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

**CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE:** NO

(Vote to place on Consent Calendar must be unanimous.)

BLUMB
ROYCE
(Odell)

**Statement of Intent:** Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Richard T. Cooney, Clerk

**OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK** 2002 SESSION

**RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Bill #:** SB 315 **Title:** CLUB ASSIST FOR SNOWMOBILES

PH Date: ____/____/____ Exec Session Date: 3/22/02

**Motion:** AMENDMENT Amendment #: 2002-3126h

| MEMBER | YEAS | NAYS |
|---|---|---|
| Rovce. H Charles. Chairman | X | |
| Lawton. David M. V Chairman | X | |
| Coonev. Richard T. Clerk | X | |
| Roberts. William E | | X |
| Fields. Dennis H | | X |
| Czech. Stanlev E | | |
| Gallus. John T | | X |
| Russell. David H | X | |
| Bruno. Pierre W | X | |
| Christensen. D L Chris | | |
| Dewhirst. Glenn E | | |
| Odell. Bob | X | |
| Quimbv. Lee W | X | X |
| Spang. Judith T | | X |
| Williams. Carol A | | |
| Lefebvre. Roland J | | |
| Lovett. Sid | | X |
| Zerba. Roger T | | X |
| McGuire. Robert M | X | |
| Rush. Deanna P | | X |

TOTAL VOTE: 8-7
Printed: 12/19/2001

**OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK** 2002 SESSION

**RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Bill #:** SB 315 Title: CLUB ASSIS. FOR SNOW MOBILES

PH Date: ____/____/____ Exec Session Date: 3/27/02

**Motion:** AMENDMENT Amendment #: 2002-3~~8~~10h

| MEMBER | YEAS | NAYS |
|---|---|---|
| Rovce. H Charles. Chairman | | X |
| Lawton. David M. V Chairman | | X |
| Coonev. Richard T. Clerk | | X |
| Roberts. William E | X | |
| Fields. Dennis H | X | |
| Czech. Stanlev E | | |
| Gallus. John T | X | |
| Russell. David H | | X |
| Bruno. Pierre W | | X |
| Christensen. D L Chris | | |
| Dewhirst. Glenn E | | |
| Odell. Bob | | X |
| Quimbv. Lee W | | X |
| Spang. Judith T | X | |
| Williams. Carol A | | |
| Lefebvre. Roland J | | |
| Lovett. Sid | X | |
| Zerba. Roger T | X | |
| McGuire. Robert M | | X |
| Rush. Deanna P | X | |

TOTAL VOTE: 7-8

Printed: 12/19/2001

**OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK** 2002 SESSION

**RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Bill #:** SB 315 Title: CLUB ASSCS. FOR SNOWMOBILES

PH Date: ____/____/____ Exec Session Date: 3/27/02

**Motion:** OTP/A Amendment #: 2002-3126h

| MEMBER | YEAS | NAYS |
|---|---|---|
| Rovce. H Charles. Chairman | X | |
| Lawton. David M. V Chairman | X | |
| Coonev. Richard T. Clerk | X | |
| Roberts. William E | | X |
| Fields. Dennis H | | X |
| Czech. Stanlev E | | |
| Gallus. John T | | X |
| Russell. David H | X | |
| Bruno. Pierre W | X | |
| Christensen. D L Chris | | |
| Dewhirst. Glenn E | | |
| Odell. Bob | X | |
| Quimbv. Lee W | X | |
| Spang. Judith T | X | |
| Williams. Carol A | | |
| Lefebvre. Roland J | | |
| Lovett. Sid | X | |
| Zerba. Roger T | | X |
| McGuire. Robert M | X | |
| Rush. Deanna P | X | |

TOTAL VOTE: 11-4

Printed: 12/19/2001

# INTERIM STUDY
# EXECUTIVE SESSION

**COMMITTEE:** **RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**BILL NUMBER:** **SB 315-FN**

**BILL TITLE:** **(New Title) relative to requiring payment of a club assistance program fee by persons registering snow traveling vehicles who are not members of an organized snowmobile club**

**DATE:** October 23, 2002

## MOTION
**(Please circle one)**

**RECOMMENDED** **NOT RECOMMENDED**

**Moved by: Rep. Judith T. Spang**

**Seconded by: Rep. Sid Lovett**

**Vote: 15-2**

**(Note: Attach record of roll call vote)**

**Rep. Charles H. Royce, Chair**

**Original: Committee Bill File**

**OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK** 2002 SESSION

**RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Bill #:** SB 315 Title: Rel to requiring payment of a club assistance program fee by persons registering snow traveling vehicles who are not members of an organized snowmobile club

PH Date: ~~10/23/02~~ NOT ACCEPT SB 315 up to Recognition Exec Session Date: 10/23/02

**Motion:** ACCEPT REPORT Amendment #:

| MEMBER | YEAS | NAYS |
|---|---|---|
| Rovce. H Charles. Chairman | X | |
| Lawton. David M. V Chairman | | X |
| Coonev. Richard T. Clerk | | X |
| Roberts. William E | X | |
| Fields. Dennis H | X | |
| Czech. Stanlev E | X | |
| Gallus. John T | X | |
| Russell. David H | X | |
| Bruno. Pierre W | X | |
| Christensen. D L Chris | X | |
| Dewhirst. Glenn E | | |
| Odell. Bob | X | |
| Quimbv. Lee W | X | |
| Spang. Judith T | X | |
| Williams. Carol A | X | |
| Lefebvre. Roland J | X | |
| Lovett. Sid | X | |
| Zerba. Roger T | | |
| McGuire. Robert M | X | |
| Rush. Deanna P | | |
| TOTAL VOTE: 15-2 | 15 | 2 |

Printed: 12/19/2001

# Committee Report

# COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: **Resources, Recreation and Development**

BILL NUMBER: **SB 315-FN**

TITLE: (New Title) relative to requiring payment of a club assistance program fee by persons registering snow traveling vehicles who are not members of an organized snowmobile club.

DATE: March 27, 2002 CONSENT CALENDAR YES ☐ NO ☒

☐ OUGHT TO PASS

☒ OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

☐ INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

☐ REFER TO COMMITTEE FOR INTERIM STUDY
(Available only in second year of biennium.)

**STATEMENT OF INTENT**
**(Include Committee Vote)**

The original legislation would have required non-members of organized snowmobile clubs to pay an additional registration fee of $30. This would have required resident non-club members to pay an annual registration fee of $77 per machine, non-resident non-club members would pay $92 per year per machine. Registration fees for current club members would not increase. The objectives of the original legislation are laudatory: to increase volunteer participation in trail maintenance and development, and to raise funds for the clubs. The committee reviewed options for collecting different levels of fees for club members and non-members, methods insuring integrity in the sale of memberships by registering agents or by remitting a credit to club members from an across the board fee increase, and means by which to increase revenue at the club level. The majority of the committee believes that charging different registration fees based on whether a person is a club member or not was inappropriate and that the collection of fees and sale of club memberships by registering agents would be difficult to manage. To help meet the immediate financial needs of the clubs, the committee recommends a $10 fee increase on all snowmobile registrations. The estimated $650,000 of new revenue would be used 100% to lower match percentages required of snowmobile clubs to receive funds from the grant-in-aid program for snowmobile trails development and maintenance.

Vote 11-4.

Rep. Bob Odell
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
cc: Committee Bill file

USE ANOTHER REPORT FOR MINORITY REPORT

Resources, Recreation and Development

**SB 315-FN,** (New Title) relative to requiring payment of a club assistance program fee by persons registering snow traveling vehicles who are not members of an organized snowmobile club. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT**

Rep. Bob Odell for Resources, Recreation and Development: The original legislation would have required non-members of organized snowmobile clubs to pay an additional registration fee of $30. This would have required resident non-club members to pay an annual registration fee of $77 per machine, non-resident non-club members would pay $92 per year per machine. Registration fees for current club members would not increase. The objectives of the original legislation are laudatory: to increase volunteer participation in trail maintenance and development, and to raise funds for the clubs. The committee reviewed options for collecting different levels of fees for club members and non-members, methods insuring integrity in the sale of memberships by registering agents or by remitting a credit to club members from an across the board fee increase, and means by which to increase revenue at the club level. The majority of the committee believes that charging different registration fees based on whether a person is a club member or not was inappropriate and that the collection of fees and sale of club memberships by registering agents would be difficult to manage. To help meet the immediate financial needs of the clubs, the committee recommends a $10 fee increase on all snowmobile registrations. The estimated $650,000 of new revenue would be used 100% to lower match percentages required of snowmobile clubs to receive funds from the grant-in-aid program for snowmobile trails development and maintenance. **Vote 11-4.**

SB 315 Ought to Pass With Amendment

The original legislation would have required non-members of organized snowmobile clubs to pay an additional registration fee of $30. This would have required resident non-club members to pay an annual registration fee of $77; non-resident non-club members would pay $92 per year per machine. ~~Members of clubs would pay~~ Registration fees for current club members would not increase. The objectives of the original legislation are mandatory: to increase volunteer participation in trail maintenance and development, and to raise funds for the club.

The committee reviewed ~~options~~ options for collecting different levels of fees for club members and non-members, methods ensuring integrity in the sale of memberships by registering agents or by remitting a credit to club members from an area the board fee increase, and means by which to increase revenue at the club level. The majority of the committee believes that charging different registration fees based on whether a person is a club member or not was inappropriate and that the collection of fees and sale of club memberships by registering agents would be difficult to manage ~~and could invite~~ To help prevent the

immediate financial needs of the clubs, the committee ~~~~ recommends a $10 fee increase on all snowmobile registrations. The estimated $650,000 of new revenue would be used 100% & lower match ~~~~ percentages required of ~~OHA~~ Snowmobile clubs to receive funds from the grant-in-aid program for snowmobile trails development and maintenance.

E Odell

# INTERIM STUDY
# COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: **Resources, Recreation and Development**

BILL NUMBER: **SB 315-FN**

TITLE: (New Title) relative to requiring payment of a club assistance program fee by persons registering snow traveling vehicles who are not members of an organized snowmobile club

DATE: October 23, 2002

☐ RECOMMENDED

☒ NOT RECOMMENDED

**STATEMENT OF INTENT**
**(may be handwritten)**

The committee reviewed the results of similar legislation in HB 1348, enacted in May 2002. Discussion centered on four question areas: will snowmobile registration patterns change substantially; will there be a challenge to nominally required club affiliation; will the goal of increased volunteer trail maintenance be met; and, what will be the impact on non-trail snowmobile users? Since most trail maintenance is done in the fall and winter, and most registrations are done in January, the committee was unable to reliably answer any of these questions.

Vote: 15-2.
(Note: Attach record of roll call vote)

LSR Number: N/A.
(If legislation if already filed, please list LSR number)

Rep. Judith T. Spang
Chairman/Clerk

Original: House Clerk
Copy: Committee Bill file

Resources, Recreation and Development

**SB 315-FN,** (New Title) relative to requiring payment of a club assistance program fee by persons registering snow traveling vehicles who are not members of an organized snowmobile club **NOT RECOMMENDED**

Rep. Judith T. Spang for Resources, Recreation and Development: The committee reviewed the results of similar legislation in HB 1348, enacted in May 2002. Discussion centered on four question areas: will snowmobile registration patterns change substantially; will there be a challenge to nominally required club affiliation; will the goal of increased volunteer trail maintenance be met; and, what will be the impact on non-trail snowmobile users? Since most trail maintenance is done in the fall and winter, and most registrations are done in January, the committee was unable to reliably answer any of these questions. **Vote 15-2.**

Full Committee approved as amended. 10/23/02

## Interim Study Subcommittee Report on SB 315

The committee reviewed the results of similar legislation in HB 1348, enacted in May 2002. Discussion centered on four question areas: will snowmobile registration patterns change substantially, will there be a challenge to nominally required club affiliation, will the goal of increased volunteer trail maintenance be met, and what will be the impact on non-trail snowmobile users? Since most trail maintenance is done in the fall, and winter most registrations are done in January, the committee was unable to reliably answer any of these questions.

Delete

Recognizing the importance of snowmobiling to the New Hampshire economy, the committee recommends the filing of friendly legislation that could be used for adjustments to existing RSA's, should that become necessary, so that delay and negative impact on this important resource, if any, would be minimal. Such legislation would take the form of a $10.00 increased registration fee on all snowmobiles as opposed to the recently enacted $30.00 increase for non-club member registrations.