Bill as Introduced

SB 315-FN – AS INTRODUCED

2002 SESSION

02-3023
10/09

SENATE BILL ***315-FN***

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

SPONSORS: Sen. Burns, Dist 1

COMMITTEE: Transportation

ANALYSIS

This bill requires persons registering snow traveling vehicles to show completion of an approved safety and education course every 4 years or be an active member of a New Hampshire snowmobile club which administers a safety and education program for its members.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

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 Off Highway Recreational Vehicles; Registration of Snow Traveling Vehicles; Safety and Education Course Required; Exception for Snowmobile Club Program. Amend RSA 215-A:21, IV to read as follows:

IV.*(a)* All snow traveling vehicles shall be registered with a number to be placed on both sides of the front cowl in a location designated by the executive director for the purpose of placing identification numbers. The registration number shall be contained on a decal of a type and size designated by the executive director. The number for said vehicle shall be assigned by the executive director or one of his agents. In case of a transfer, the number shall expire and become invalid. If a new machine is obtained a new number shall be assigned, unless otherwise authorized by the executive director.

(b)(1) A person registering a snow traveling vehicle under this paragraph shall be required to show completion of a safety and education course, approved by the executive director pursuant to RSA 215-A:32-a, within the past 4 years. The fish and game department or its authorized agent shall issue safety and education decals to such persons. Decals shall be affixed beside the registration on the front cowl. The safety and education decals shall be issued for an annual fee of $10. From the fee, $2 shall be retained by the agent in addition to RSA 215-A:24, $4 shall be distributed to the department of resources and economic development for the grant-in-aid program as provided in RSA 215-A:23, VI, and $4 shall be distributed to the fish and game department for the purposes listed in RSA 215-A:23, VIII.

(2) The safety and education requirement in subparagraph (b)(1) shall be satisfied if the person is a member of a New Hampshire snowmobile club which administers a safety and education program for its members at no additional fee.

(3) A safety and education course approved by the executive director shall charge a fee of $50 for the course, which shall be paid to the club or organization providing the course. Safety and education programs operated by snowmobile clubs shall be required to receive the approval of the executive director for its members to qualify for the exception provided in subparagraph (b)(2). A person qualifying for the safety and education course exception because of membership in a New Hampshire snowmobile club shall retain such exception only for the period the person maintains membership in the snowmobile club.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

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.

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

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.

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.

Amendments

Senate Transportation
February 12, 2002
2002-2574s
04/03

Amendment to SB 315-FN

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

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.

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

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.

2002-2574s

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.

2002-2574s

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.

Committee Minutes

Date: 01/08/02
Time: 8:58 am
Room: 104, LOB

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

SB 315-FN relative to requiring safety and education training for persons registering snow traveling vehicles.

Members of Committee present: Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10:
Senator Robert B. Flanders, D. 7:
Senator Daniel P. O'Neil, D. 18:
Senator Caroline McCarley, D. 6:

The Chair, Senator Thomas R. Eaton, opened the hearing.

Senator Harold W. Burns, D. 1: ...but they got so excited over the snow. They all wanted to stay and snowmobile. So, I'm gonna have to request that we continue the hearing so that they can have an opportunity to get down here and testify. We also have an amendment coming in; unfortunately, I had to sign this off and put it in to meet the deadline in August. And we've been working with the department and the snowmobilers to get something that we hope is more verbal. So, we really do appreciate your generosity in continuing the hearing and thank you very much.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: Thank you. Anybody else wish to speak? And I'll just add for the record that I received a call yesterday from Captain Tom Acerno. I called all over the fish & game. He returned a call to me. And they knew that this was being reworked and decided not to come today to speak to this bill, because from what we're gonna see it will be quite different from what we have here.

So I will recess this bill and when the re-make is ready, we will have a hearing on that as soon as possible.

Closing: 9:01 am

Date: January 29, 2002
Time: 9:00am
Room: 104, LOB

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

SB 315-FN relative to requiring safety and education training for persons registering snow traveling vehicles.

Members of Committee present: Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10:
Senator Robert B. Flanders, D. 7:
Senator Caroline McCarley, D. 6:
Senator Daniel P. O'Neil, D. 18:

The Chair, Senator Thomas R. Eaton, opened the hearing by calling on Senator Harold Burns.

Senator Harold W. Burns, D. 1: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. For the record, I am Harold Burns from district 1. And I wanted to thank you for postponing the hearing. We had bad weather a while ago and the people couldn't get here. And they were preparing an amendment which you have **(Attachment 1)**. And so we thank you for that.

Snow machining in the North Country is big, big business. It puts a lot of money into the area so it is very important. And I can tell you I don't snow mobile but I see them on Thursdays and Fridays going north, trailer load after trailer load. So it's got to be helping the economy of the North Country. This bill is about trying and I put it in at the request of the snow machine clubs. And I was told this was unanimous. I understand now that you may hear some testimony that isn't unanimous. However, no one can deny that it isn't a very serious problem trying to get the money to groom the trails and keep them safe. And I think we've handed you a real big job and so you've got your work cut out for you a head of time. And a... sometimes it helps to introduce legislation that brings something to every bodies attention. And this certainly has done that. We see all the people in the room here and they can talk to you much more professionally about than I can.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: OK. Senator Burns, what we have in front of us now is the amendment to SB 315 which totally negates the first part of the bill that was initially introduced.

Senator Harold W. Burns, D. 1: That is correct.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: Any questions of Senator Burns? Thank you very much. Alright. The course of action here is that we would check with other representative that are in the room to see if they wish to speak in case they have to get on to something else, and then we'll go through the public. And I just wanted to check... Representative Kevin R. Chalbeck. Is he here? OK. He signed in opposition to that but did not wish to speak. Rep. Bill Roberts, do you wish to speak?

Representative Bill Roberts: I didn't sign-up. I figured you had enough people here that were gonna give you the works so.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: And you are in...?

Representative Bill Roberts: I'm in favor.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: Favor of this. OK. Thank you. Then we have a... we'll go to Dana Cabana. Is that correct?

Dana Cabana: Yes.

Written testimony **(Attachment 2)**

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: Any questions? Senator Flanders.

Senator Robert B. Flanders, D. 7: A quick question, Sir. Your testimony says there's about 65,000 machines in the state. How many members... do we know how many of those belong to clubs?

Dana Cabana: About 9,000. Well, 9,000... we have club members.

Senator Robert B. Flanders, D. 7: Really. Thank you.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: Thank you very much. I see Commissioner Vetter has come in. Commissioner, do you wish to speak on this?

Commissioner Wayne Vetter: No, no. I'm all set Senator. I'll listen. Thank you.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: OK. Thank you. I just want to make sure. Senator Barnes are you here to speak on SB 315?

Senator John S. Barnes, Jr., D. 17: No. I'm here for 403 and 405.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: I'm just... I just wanted to make sure. All right. We have Cliff Russell.

Cliff Russell: Members of the committee. I'm representing the Hillsborough County Snowmobile Clubs. Hillsborough County is in unanimous support of this bill. Without increased membership it's making it more difficult for us to maintain the trail system we now have. Also the more people that we get into the clubs at this point in time you can educate more people about safety in the sport and a...the big thing that we have to do is support our land owners. I think that was about it. The County wanted us to be here to introduce that. That we are in support of it 100%.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: How many members in your club?

Cliff Russell: My club? There's 45.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: And you do grooming of the trails in your area? Or do you go to the North Country to...?

Cliff Russell: We groom our own area. We've had... we have 61 miles of trail. I've been the trail master there for 30 years. And it's getting more and more difficult to maintain them without new blood.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: And do the members kind of cross over and go and help other members or do you strictly have your own area that you have to...?

Cliff Russell: We do overlap with some clubs in our area. Specifically for grooming, you know. If we don't have time, we overlap... it's a mutual agreement...

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: Thank you. Any questions? Now I have Lucy Ford in favor but did not wish to speak. If I'm wrong on any of this and you do wish to speak, give a holler. Jeffrey Balch in favor not wishing to speak. Paula Cabana in favor not wishing to speak. Betsy Graham in favor not wishing to speak. Robert Graham in favor not wishing to speak. Glen Clark in favor not wishing to speak. Harold Case in favor not wishing to speak.

Harold Case: Excuse me. I did want to speak.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: And you are?

Harold Case: Harold Case. Of course I signed the thing wrong.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: Quite all right. Is there another sign-up sheet out there? Wait a minute... here we go. Ah... Yes. Thank you.

Harold Case: My name is Harold Case. I'm President of the American Counsel of Snowmobile Association. Past President of NHSA. And I greatly support this bill; because as you have heard already. I think it's gonna increase the membership of the clubs; the volunteers. We need it, badly. The clubs throughout the state are working with the same people for... say there's 9,000 in the Association and 65,000 registered snowmobiles, I think it's time that they paid or help create trails and maintain them.

I know that my club is in support which is the Hudson Snowmen. They're in support of this 100%. We do not have a trail system, but we feel whatever our endeavors are, we need more volunteers even in our club. We see our membership dropping. And I think this a way to increase the club membership, the Association membership and to help out the trails and clubs along the way. It's hard for the clubs to come up with that kind of money for their matching funds for the trails. If people get into the clubs, we feel the clubs will benefit by the increased memberships. If they do not join the club then they pay the extra money on their registration which will be granted back to the trail system. And I think that's what we need.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: Any questions? Thank you very much. I'm just gonna go over some more names that here that are in favor but are not wishing to speak. Again speak up if that is not signed right. David Durst. Casey Hazes from the beautiful town of Stoddard.

Casey Hazes: I do wish to speak.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: OK. Casey's lovely wife is Helen Hazes.

Casey Hazes: Not the actress. Mr. Chairman. I am the Cheshire County Director of the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association. I'm the Chairman of the Stoddard Planning Board and the President of our local snowmobile club. We currently maintain 67 miles in Stoddard. And about 2 miles in Washington. We have a mutual agreement with Washington to maintain those trails that overlap. This past weekend we spent, I guess, 24 hours

building a 30' bridge with volunteer labor. 3 people showed up out of 65. What we're hoping to do with this bill is to gain some more members, some more funds; and increase the safety of our trails. And anytime you by a road crossing that says "stop" signs and "yield" signs those all improve the safety. And those all... all those funds need to come from somewhere. And this funding is what I feel to be just right up... just what we need. We have unanimous support from Cheshire County from the 10 clubs on the original proposal. We have 8 of the 10 clubs in favor of this amendment. The other two clubs, the Presidents are in favor, but they have not brought it to a vote between their clubs yet. I feel there will be a unanimous support there as well.

I also brought for the record, 12 signatures (Not submitted) from the town of Stoddard. One of which is a registration agent who is 100% for this.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: Casey, just a question. You said you have 65 members in your club.

Casey Hazes: Just in the Stoddard Club, we have 65 members.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: Now if you receive more funds because other people join, that doesn't guarantee that they're gonna come out to help or can you explain that? I mean, when you 65 members and only 3 come out?

Casey Hazes: We have a few that always do the work of everybody. There's a core of 8 people. And 8-9 people in clubs of a 100 members will say that basically it's the same 8 or 10 that come out. Currently we have... with enough notice and good weather we can sometimes get up to 15 to a project. But a lot of these jobs have to be done, for safety reasons, at the spur of the moment. So basically, every Sunday I sponsor breakfast at my house. Get people there at 7:00 and we're on the trail by 8:00. That's the way I do it.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: Now do you cook or does Helen?

Casey Hazes: I cook and my wife does the dishes. (laughter) It's a fun thing to do, but it does get a little overwhelming. I personally have over 500 volunteer hours this year. Well, not this year, but including last year as well. Neighboring clubs are up about the same. My club does, I would say nearly 1000 hours in a year. So, it's a substantial amount of time, that doesn't include the grooming time.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: Does not include grooming time?

Casey Hazes: Does not include grooming time. That's trail maintenance only. And these trails in our area are not just snowmobile trails either. There hiking trails, cross-country ski trails. These are fire access for fire su... incredible responsibility for a club.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: Any other questions? Thank you.

Casey Hazes: Thank you.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: Appreciate you coming over. Also in favor: Walter Brown, William Canty, Frank McClary, Irene Russell. Also in Favor is Russel Hoyt, Doug Moore, Paul Cathcart, Fred Conlin, Roy Hartford, and Harry Gramm is it?

Speaker?: Graham.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: Graham. Thank you. Dennis Fields, Don MacMillon, and Arthur Willard. And wishing to speak is John Violette.

John Violette:

Written Testimony **(Attachment 3)**

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: Any questions? Carroll Pineo

Carroll Pineo:

Written Testimony **(Attachment 4)**

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: Any questions? Appreciate your comments, thank you. Yes, Sir.

Charles Kurtz: Charles Kurtz, I've just arrived. Coos County director. Past president of NHSA. I represent where the bulk of the riding is done. Those clubs up there seriously need help. Some of the club's budgets are in excess of $200,000 a year. Pittsburg is probably closer to $400,000 a year. And if you do the match that means that they have to come up with $160,000. I noticed in the paper that there was some concern from the northern clubs.

Their concerns are that people will join southern clubs and not maintain their membership in the northern clubs. I don't believe that will happen. And if it does happen it will be a very short period of time – a year or two; and people will join where they ride. They... The bulk of the riding is done in the north country; the first riding, the last riding. People will join where they ride. This bill is very much needed by the northern clubs. Most of the clubs are large but their membership is from out-of-town. I come from the town of

Arrow. We have 250 members. We have 6 residents. Those 6 residents do the bulk of the work. If we call for a big work party, people will show but the meanial tasks are handled by 6 people. We need help. Both monitarily and volunteers. Thank you very much. Any questions?

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: Thank you. Any one else wishing to speak? Yes.

Betsy Graham: I won't take your time very long. I'm that passing generation, I guess. I am Carroll County director for the NHSA. I represent 10 clubs in Carroll County. And I just wanted to let you all know that all 10 clubs are definitely in favor of this bill passing. Thank you.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: Thank you. Yes, Sir.

Jeffrey Balch: Hi. My name is Jeffrey Balch. And I'm the county director of Grafton County. We're north enough that we do get some snow also and support a lot of riding. We have 19 clubs in Grafton County and they all support the bill. We feel as, Mr. Kurtz said, that people will initially... they may join as they register in a southern part of the state but then they'll start getting the "Sno Traveler". That's part of the deal when you join a club and the Association and with that we'd be able to educate them on how the system works. A lot of people don't even really understand how the system works at all now. They just think they register their snowmobile and they can go riding wherever they want. We think getting them into the membership and educating them on how the system works and the safety issues would be very helpful. Thank you.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: Thank you very much. Does anyone else wish to speak? I'll close the hearing on SB 315-FN.

Closed: 9:37am

Attachment 1

Sen. Burns, Dist. 1
January 16, 2002
2002-2199s
10/09

Amendment to SB 315-FN

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

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.

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

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.

2002-2199s

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.

Senate Bill 315

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

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Dana Cabana. I am the President of the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association (NHSA). I appear before you this morning in support of SB 315 as amended.

The sport of snowmobiling generates a tremendous amount of revenue for the State of New Hampshire, approximately $400 million dollars annually. About 65,000 snowmobilers come to New Hampshire every winter to enjoy our 6,800 miles of trails. These trails are maintained by members of NHSA 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. Snowmobilers who belong to a NH snowmobile club will be exempt from paying the fee. Fees collected will be will be deposited into the Grant-in- Aid Program Fund administered by DRED. DRED will then send matching funds back to local NH snowmobile clubs for trail grooming and maintenance. Local snowmobile clubs are required to raise 40 % matching funds to be able to access Grant-in-Aid. Snowmobile clubs raise these matching funds by holding bake sales and dances. It is almost impossible for local clubs to raise the necessary money through these means to purchase trail grooming equipment whose purchase price is over $100,000.00.

It is our hope that Senate Bill 315 may also increase membership in New Hampshire Snowmobile clubs. Since non-members will be required to pay the CAP fee of $30 and the average cost of a family membership in a snowmobile club is approximately $30, we believe this may spur additional snowmobilers to join local clubs.

NHSA believes that 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 9,000 members of NH Snowmobile Association clubs. Currently the clubs are facing a decline in membership and volunteers. Also,

club members who began with the sport 30 years ago are getting older and are less able to do the same work done in previous years. This is a serious problem for the State and the sport because these clubs are the charged with the maintenance of the State's trail system. We need help before this problem becomes much worse. If the clubs aren't able to perform the trail maintenance, who will?

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 that more snowmobilers will receive information on safety.

It is not the intent of this bill, nor the Association, to charge this additional fee to other types of OHRV's. This bill does not include ATV's.

I hope this committee will look favorable on SB 315. The sport of snowmobiling has been a tremendous benefit to New Hampshire. We would like to continue our track record. Unfortunately, with the current trend of declining new members and maturing old ones, I am not sure how we can as an Association can guarantee that benefit.

Thank you.

Dana Cabana

Attachment 3

SB 315FN

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is John Violette and I live in Bow. NH has 6,800 miles of snowmobile trails about 80% of which are on private land. These trails need to be maintained by first acquiring landowner permission, brushing the trails and clearing them of debris such as blowdowns, stumps, and rocks, building bridges over streams and rivers, putting up signs for safe operation and directions, and continually grooming the trails during the entire winter season. Some trails need to be relocated each year for a variety of reasons such as changes in land ownership or use. The snowmobile clubs are the ones who have the responsibility for getting this job done. This is accomplished through the efforts of hundreds of volunteers who contribute thousands of man-hours throughout the year. Were it not for the efforts of these dedicated volunteers, NH would not have the snowmobile program that we enjoy today. A prime example I would like to cite is the winter of 1997-98 when we were hit with an ice storm during the second week of January. Had it not been for the hundreds of volunteers who came out and gave a super effort to re-open the trails, snowmobiling in northern NH, for the most part, would have been stopped for the rest of that season.

I am one of those volunteers. I have been a member of the Bow Pioneers Snowmobile Club since 1974 and each year since then I have been involved with the club in building bridges, cutting brush, removing rocks and blow-downs, and grooming the trails in the winter. When necessary I have contacted landowners in order to relocate a trail or resolve issues. I have been on the board of directors and have held the office of vice-president and president of both the Bow Pioneers and NHSA. The club has raised thousands of dollars by selling raffle tickets, having flea markets and running dances and other functions in order to pay its share of the trail maintenance expenses and I have been involved in those activities. I am a snowmobile safety instructor and I have helped the club conduct safety training courses for our young snowmobilers and in some cases their parents. The ice storm of '97-'98 that I mentioned earlier did not effect our club trails so our club volunteered to help with the clearing efforts up north where the trails had been devastated.

In addition to doing all of the above, clubs have been involved in raising money for charity in order to promote good will. An excellent example of this is the $1.45 Million dollars raised to date for Camp Easter Seal which is a camp for children with disabilities located in the Hidden Valley Scout reservation in Gilmanton Iron Works. NHSA was he first organization in NH to raise over one million dollars for Easter Seals and was recognized by Easter Seals as the organization of the decade for the 1990's.

It's rather unfortunate but the vast majority of the people who snowmobile in NH think that the money they pay for their registration covers all of those expenses and many believe that the state is responsible for doing all this work. The truth is the money received from registrations covers only about half of the expenses of trail maintenance. Many of these same people are not acquainted with safe riding practices or the need to maintain good landowner relations in order to safeguard the use of these trails. If they were members of organized snowmobiling they would receive periodic club bulletins alerting them to landowner issues or trail relocation and they would also receive monthly copies of the NH Sno-Traveler which contains a lot of important information including articles on snowmobile safety. The Sno-Traveler is the official publication of the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association and is distributed free to all its members. If this bill passes into law, a greater number of people would be available to volunteer to keep the trails open and groomed.

SB 318FN cont'd

Those who would choose to get more involved with clubs would also gain valuable experience and appreciation for snowmobile safety as well as the efforts put forth by the club to keep the snowmobile program going. I can say without equivocation that if were not for the Bow Pioneers the snowmobile program in Bow would have ended a long time ago.

The late Tip O'Neil, the former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, used to say that all politics is local. Well, in the same vein, I can say that all snowmobiling is local. And if it wasn't for the work being done by the snowmobile clubs, locally, snowmobiling as we know it would not exist. The clubs need help and passage of this bill would help them.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment and I hope you will support this bill.

Respectfully,

John R. Violette 

Attachment 4

Jan 29 2002

SNOWMOBILE BILL SB 315

I CAN SUPPORT THE BILL, PROVIDING THAT CREDIT IS ACCEPTED IN THE FORM OF OPTIONAL CLUB MEMBERSHIP. HOWEVER IT APPEARS THAT THERE ARE MANY DETAILS TO BE WORKED OUT AND PROBLEMS TO BE RESOLVED. LISTED BELOW ARE THE MAJOR ONES THAT OCCUR TO ME.

- CLUB MEMBERSHIP OPTION SHOULD ALLOW REGISTRANTS TO SELECT THE CLUB(S) OF THEIR CHOICE BASED UPON WHERE THEY RIDE, OR NEAR THEIR CAMP OR NEAR FRIENDS THEY RIDE WITH AND NOT BE FORCED TO JOIN A CLUB LOCAL TO WHERE THEY RESIDE (TOWN OR COUNTY) IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR CLUB CREDIT.
- REGISTRATIONS EXPIRE JUNE 30 EACH YEAR. CLUB MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE AT VARIABLE MONTHS DURING THE YEAR, THIS WILL BE AWKWARD REGARDING HOW TO VALIDATE CLUB MEMBERSHIP AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION. FOR LOW NUMBER REGISTRATION SEPTEMBER REGISTRATION AT THE LATEST IS REQUIRED TO HOLD YOUR LOW NUMBER. DETAILS NEED TO BE CONSIDERED.
- WHAT ARE THE PROVISIONS FOR REGISTRANTS HAVING 2 OR 3 MACHINES? IS ONE CLUB MEMBERSHIP SUFFICIENT TO RECEIVE THE REGISTRATION CREDIT FOR ALL MACHINES? THIS IS NOT A PROBLEM FOR ME IN THAT I HAVE MEMBERSHIP IN FOUR CLUBS, NONE OF WHICH ARE LOCAL TO MY RESIDENCE IN ROCKINGHAM COUNTY. CLUB MEMBERSHIP PLUS MY OPTIONAL DONATIONS AMOUNT TO $160. TO SUPPORT CLUBS WHERE I RIDE: GROVETON, ERROL, STEWARTSTOWN AND PITTSBURG. I SHOULD NOT HAVE TO JOIN A CLUB WHERE I NEVER RIDE TO GET THE $30. CREDIT.
- WHAT ARE PROVISIONS FOR BUSINESSES PROVIDING GUIDE SERVICE AND RENTAL SLEDS?
- WHAT ARE THE PROVISIONS FOR 4 WHEELERS THAT ARE ALLOWED OR THAT ARE NOT PROHIBITED FROM SNOWMOBILE GROOMED TRAILS? DO SOME OR ALL HAVE TO PAY THE $30. FEE OR JOIN A CLUB WHERE THEY MAY NOT BE WELCOME? WITHOUT SB 315 THE 4 WHEELER ISSUE IS VERY COMPLEX. SB315 MAKES THE SITUATION ABOUT HOPELESS.
- THE REAL BIG ISSUE RELATED TO INCLUDING THE $30.00 PROPOSED FEE AS AN ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION FEE NOTWITHSTANDING CLUB MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS IS HOW WILL THE PROCEEDS BE DISTRIBUTED. THERE IS A VAST DIFFERENCE IN EXPENSES, NEEDS, TRAFFIC, RESOURCES. MANY WINTERS HERE IN THE SOUTH THE GROOMERS WEAR OUT SITTING IN THEIR SHEDS... NOT SO UP NORTH!

CARROLL B PINEO SEABROOK NH 926 5618 Carroll B Pineo

Speakers



ROLLING THUNDER, INC.
NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHAPTER ONE, PRESIDENT
ROBERT G. THIBEDORE

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snowmobile Leg SB315

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SB 315

Senator Burns

Snowmobile

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Date 01/08/02 Time 9:00AM Public Hearing On SB 315-FN

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

Speaking?	*Name*	*Address*	*Representing*
☒	Harold Burns	PO Box 10	
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Appearing in OPPOSITION: *(Please Print)* ***Please check box at left to speak.***

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SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Date 1/29/02 Time 8:45AM Public Hearing On SB315-FN

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

Speaking?	Name	Address	Representing
☑	CARROLL PINEO	SEABROOK NH	81 STARD ROAD MYSELF SPEAKING
☑	Harold Bryant	Grafton	Self
☑	Jane Cabana	1570 Rt 106	Loudon N.H.
☐	Lucy B Ford	8 Patten Rd	Alexandria
☑	Jeffrey Balch	441 Hanover Center Rd	Hanover
☐	Paula Cabana	1570 Rt 106	Loudon N.H.
☑	Betsy Graham	22 Moultonboro Neck Rd	Moultonboro NH
☐	Robert J. Graham	21 Moultonboro Rd.	Moultonboro N.H.
☑	Cliff Russell	PO Box 163	Grafton NH 03240
☐	GLENN CLARK	PO BOX 237	MOULTONBORO NH 03254
✓	HAROLD CASE	41 CHASE Rd	Londonderry N.H. NHSA

Appearing in OPPOSITION: (Please Print) Please check box at left to speak.

☐	Rep Kevin R. Chalbeck	5 Reservation Rd Deerfield	Rock Dist #8
☑	Rep Gene G Chandler	Carroll	DIST #1 Bartlett
☑	~~Harold Case~~	~~41 Chase Rd Londonderry N.H.~~	~~NHSA~~
☐	~~Cliff Russell~~		
☐	Charles Kratz	in favor	
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SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Date 1/29/02 Time 8:45 Public Hearing On SB 315-FN

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

Speaking?	*Name*	*Address*	*Representing*
☐	DAVID C. DURST	430 TERRIE DR	PEMBROKE NH
☑	CASEY J. HAYES	67 FOX RUN RD	NHSA/STODDARD-TOMAHAWK-HOFFMAN
☐	WALTER T. BROWN	16 OAKWOOD DR	NHSA/OVSC
☐	William H. Canty	286 College Farm Rd.	Waltham Ma OSVSC
☐	Frank J. McCaig		Director NFI
☐	Irene Gussell	PO Box 163,	Greenfield, NH 03047
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Appearing in **OPPOSITION**: *(Please Print)* ***Please check box at left to speak.***

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SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Date 1/29/02 Time 8:45 Public Hearing On SB 315-FN

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

Speaking?	Name	Address	Representing
☒	JOHN VIOLETTE	BOW NH	NHSA
☐	RUSSELL W. HOYT	40 STICKS & STONES RD	MOULTONBOROUGH, N.H
☐	DOUG MOORE	Center Harbor, NH	NHSA
☐	PAUL CATHCART	DUNBARTON NH	NHSA
☐	fred E Conlon	OSSIPEE NH	NHSA
☐	Roger Hartford	Ossipee NH	HHSA.
☐	Guy W. Hanson	Ossipee NH	NHSA
☐	DENNIS K FIELDS	STATE Rep.	Co-Sponsor
☐	Don MacMillan	Po BX 177 Gilmanton N.H.	Gilmanton Snowmobile Assn, NHSA
☐	Arthur Willard	Gilmanton N.H.	" " " "

Appearing in OPPOSITION: (Please Print) Please check box at left to speak.

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Testimony

All snowmobilers may have to pay fee

Associated Press

CONCORD — More than 65,000 snowmobilers are registered to ride in New Hampshire, but fewer than 10,000 belong to snowmobile clubs that maintain the trails.

The rest are what officials call "freemobilers."

But those freemobilers could start chipping in soon under a bill being considered by the Legislature.

The bill would require snowmobilers to either join a club or pay a $30 fee when they register their machines. The money would go into a fund to maintain the 6,800 miles of trails that crisscross the state.

"There is a lot of volunteerism by club members to keep up the trails, but a lot of people take advantage of that," said Paul Gray, director of the state Bureau of Trails. "The registration fees just don't cover the costs."

Snowmobile club dues typically are about $15 for a single person and $25 for families. Clubs use the money to supplement grants from the state to keep the trails groomed and safe. The grants come from the registration fees snowmobilers pay — $47 for state residents and $62 for out-of-staters.

Though most of the state's 110 clubs support the bill, several of the northernmost organizations are reluctant.

Gray said the presidents of those clubs agree that everyone should pay their fare share but fear that the membership they count on will drop. The majority of snowmobilers register their sleds in southern counties, and those who want to avoid the $30 fee may join a nearby club instead of joining a north country club.

Paul Bergeron, president of the Ridgerunners Snowmobile Club in Pittsburg said his group began a program five years ago to get more money for maintenance. About 70 percent of the members donate an extra $25 a year to upkeep, a system he said works well for the area.

"The registration fees just don't cover the costs."

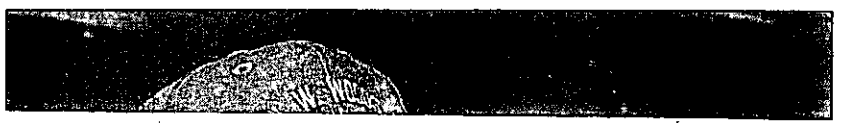
Paul Gray, director of the state Bureau of Trails

He and other club presidents also are wary of endorsing a bill that is now on its 10th draft.

"There have been so many drafts and so many reroutes — we haven't even seen the latest draft," said Clay Hinds, president of the Colebrook Ski Bees. "The club is in favor of the concept, but we're not behind the implementation."

The Senate Transportation Committee will hold a public hearing on the bill Tuesday.

Horns, hackles and huffs ... all by hand



Judge asks advice in Internet murder

Associated Press

Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Date:

THE COMMITTEE ON Transportation

to which was referred Senate Bill 315-FN

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

VOTE: 5-0

Amendment # 2574s

Having considered the same, report the same with the following amendment and recommend that the bill: **AS AMENDED OUGHT TO PASS.**

Senator Robert B. Flanders
For the Committee

|SB315 Docket

Next|Prev|Results List|Main|Bill Status

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	Body	Description
1/2/2002	**S**	Introduced and Ref. to Transportation; SJ 1, Pg.3
1/2/2002	**S**	Hearing; January 8, 2002, Room 104, LOB, 9:00 a.m.; SC2
1/17/2002	**S**	Hearing; === RECESSED === RECONVENE === January 29, 2002, Room 104, LOB 8:45 a.m.; SC5
2/12/2002	**S**	Committee Report; Ought to Pass with Amendment {2574},(New Title), [02/14/02]; SC11A, Pg.19-20
2/14/2002	**S**	Ought to Pass with Amendment {2574},(New Title), AA, VV; SJ 5, Pg.110
2/14/2002	**S**	Refer to Finance [Rule 24]; SJ 5, Pg.110
2/19/2002	**S**	Committee Report; Ought to Pass, [02/20/02]; SC12A
2/20/2002	**S**	Ought to Pass, MA, VV; OT3rdg, MA, VV; SJ 6, Pg.137
2/21/2002	**H**	Introduced and ref to Res, Rec and Dev; HJ25, p942
3/5/2002	**H**	Hearing Mar 13 2:00 RMs305-307,LOB
3/5/2002	**H**	Copy to Chairman on Mar 5 Report due EARLY
3/21/2002	**H**	Subcom Work Session Mar 26 10:00 RM305,LOB
3/27/2002	**H**	Maj Report OTP/AM for Apr 4 (vote 11-4;Reg)
3/27/2002	**H**	Prop Comm Am{3126}(New Title); HC29, p1161-1162
3/28/2002	**H**	Reps Roberts, Zerba & Gallus Prop Fl Am{3140}(New Title); HC29, p1162-1163
4/4/2002	**H**	Comm Am{3126}, AL DIV(156-182); Rep Roberts et al Fl Am{3140}, AL RC (176-180); Rep McGuirk moved
4/4/2002	**H**	Lay on Table, ML RC(177-179); OTP, ML VV; Rep Royce moved Ref for Int Study, Referred to Res,Rec&
4/4/2002	**H**	Dev for Interim Study RC(292-64); HJ32, p1263-1271

Next|Prev|Results List|Main|Bill Status

Docket Abbreviations