

HB 1188 Commission to Study the Use of OHRVs in New Hampshire

12/15/2022, 1:00pm NH F&G Dept, East Conference Room, 11 Hazen Drive

Present:

Suzanne Smith - NHACC
Andrew Renzullo - House
Eamon Kelley - House
Larry Gagne - House
Michael Eastman - NH F&G
Craig Rennie - DNCR BOT
Daniel Buteau - NHACOP
Dan Bennett - NHADA
Abby Evankow - NHRTC
Steve Wilkie - NHOHVA
Ann Davis - NHTOA
Paul Robitaille, NHMA

Absent:

David Rodrigue - NH DOT
Captain Christopher Vetter - NHSP
Paul Doscher - NHSPF
Steve Jackson - NCC

Public: Mike Ouellet, House; Richard Parsons, NHOHVA; Theresa Lambert, NHOHVA; Adam Schmidt NH Snowmobile Association; Matt Leahy SPNHF

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 1 pm.

Motion to accept November Minutes by Ms. Davis, 2nd Rep Renzullo. Approved unanimously with correction to add 2nd H to NHOHVA

Report from Safety sub-committee:

Captain Eastman shared suggested changes to HB1490 from 2021-2022 session. He explained a few of the proposed changes including, gradual changing of the age of riders required to have a safety training certificate and temporary safety training certificates for OHRV users. He also shared another document showing possible changes to RSA 215-A:29. Captain Eastman also explained that certifications for safety instructors are already in Fish and Game rules, not in statute. Information for OHRV riders can be found in the OHRV Safety Digest, written in plain language and easily understood. Members discussed how to target age 40+ riders who are involved in many accidents, discrepancies in statutes requiring youth drivers to be accompanied and other details which will need to be worked on at future meetings.

Captain Eastman receives weekly reports of who is taking safety course. He sees that the ages of participants is rising. There is reciprocity for safety certification between NH and 26 other states.

Mr. Parsons, NHOHVA lobbyist, stated that he had asked Senator Ward to submit legislation based on subcommittee discussion. There was no draft to share with committee. Chair Smith requested that a copy of proposed legislation be shared with Commission members as soon as it is available. LSR 2023-0890: Establishing a safety program for OHRVs and snowmobiles

Captain Eastman reported that two other OHRV LSRs submitted:
LSR 2023-0792 by Senator Pearl - relative to the use of OHRVs on designated trails and requiring a permit to operate certain OHRVs from before sunrise to after sunset.

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2nd = change to "Montana Plate." Currently, to get around NH OHRV laws, for \$1000 a rider can go on-line and make an LLC in Montana to get a road registration plate for their OHRV. Due to reciprocity, they can legally ride said OHRV on NH roads which are otherwise not opened to OHRVs.

Commission can only meet Mondays or Fridays once Legislature is in session.

Chair Smith suggested the first Friday of every other month 10-12pm. Except February - b/c of scheduling conflict.

Next meeting: Feb 10th, 10am - 12pm. Thereafter - first Friday of month: April 7; June 2. Quorum = 6.

Chief Rennie will set up Teams Meeting for next meeting, so members can participate remotely.

Next meeting - Review House and Senate bills related to OHRVs and determine whether the Commission will support any of them and review proposed amendments if any.

Chair Smith briefly reviewed the charge of the commission and suggested we next look at law enforcement, fines as deterrents, and other deterrents such as points on driver license.

Motion to Adjourn: Rep Gagne, 2nd Rep Kelley. 2:11pm

Respectfully submitted, Abby Evankow--Clerk