

1 2	FIRST REGULAR SESSION	
3 4	ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE	
5	Legislative Document No.	852
- 7 8 9	H.P. 669 House of Representatives, February 23, 1 Referred to the Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.	983
, 10	EDWIN H. PERT, C	lerk
. 11	Presented by Representative LaPlante of Sabattus. Cosponsor: Representative Michael of Auburn.	
12 13	STATE OF MAINE	
14 15 16	IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE	
17 18 19	AN ACT to Include 3-wheeled Vehicles in the Law Governing Snowmobiles.	
20 21	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine follows:	as
22 23	Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7821, sub-§6 is enacted read:	to
24 25 26 27 28	6. Three-wheeled vehicles. "Three-wheeled vehicles" means any vehicle equipped with 3 ballo tires, each containing 5 pounds of air or less, pr pelled by mechanical power not to exceed 35 hors power, and intended exclusively for off-road use.	oon co-
29 30	Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §7822, as enacted by PL 1979, 420, §1, is amended to read:	c.
31	§7822. Application	

1 This subchapter shall apply to the operation of 2 snowmobiles <u>or 3-wheeled vehicles</u> in all areas which 3 come within the jurisdiction of the State.

4 Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §7823, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 5 420, §1, is amended to read:

6 §7823. License

No operator's license is required for the operation of a snowmobile <u>or 3-wheeled vehicle</u>.

9 Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §7824, sub-§§1 and 2, as enacted
 10 by PL 1979, c. 420, §1, is amended to read:

Application and issuance. The commissioner,
 or an agent designated by him, may register and
 assign a registration number to all snowmobiles or
 <u>3-wheeled vehicles</u> upon application and payment of an
 annual fee by the owner. A registration shall be
 valid for one year commencing July 1st of each year.

17 2. <u>Fee.</u> The annual snowmobile <u>or 3-wheeled</u> 18 <u>vehicle</u> registration fee is \$11.25.

19 Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §7824, sub-§4, ¶A, as enacted by 20 PL 1979, c.420, §1, is amended to read:

21 All moneys credited to the department, Α. 22 including registration fees, shall be expended by 23 the department solely for the cost of administration, establishment of a safety program for snow-24 25 mobile or 3-wheeled vehicle operators and 26 enforcement of this subchapter.

27 Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §7824, sub-§4, ¶C, as repealed 28 and replaced by PL 1981, c. 698, §79, is amended to 29 read:

30 The Bureau of Parks and Recreation is author-C. 31 ized to may use moneys credited to the Snowmobile 32 Trail Fund of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation snowmobile trail acquisition, including, but 33 for 34 not limited to, the purchase or lease of real 35 estate and the acquisition of easements, construction, development, planning and maintenance 36 37 and for providing educational and informational

1 materials for the use of operators of snowmobiles 2 or 3-wheeled vehicles and for research. Sec. 7. 12 MRSA §7824, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 3 4 1979, c. 420, §1, is amended to read: 5. Form of registration. The snowmobile 5 or 3-wheeled vehicle registration shall be in such form 6 7 as the commissioner may determine. 8 Sec. 8. 12 MRSA §7824, sub-§7, as amended by PL 9 1979, c. 543, §77, is further amended to read: 10 7. Numbers permanent. All numbers once awarded under this section to a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehi-11 cle shall remain with that snowmobile or 3-wheeled 12 13 vehicle until the snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle is destroyed, abandoned or permanently removed from this 14 15 State, except that numbers that have been inactive 16 for at least 7 years may be reissued by the division. Sec. 9. 12 MRSA §7824, sub-§§8,9 and 10, 17 as enacted by PL 1979, c. 420, §1, are amended to read: 18 19 Transfer of ownership or discontinuance of 8. 20 use. 21 Whoever transfers the ownership or perma-Α. 22 nently discontinues the use of a registered snow-23 mobile or 3-wheeled vehicle and applies for registration of another snowmobile or 3-wheeled 24 25 vehicle in the same registration year shall be 26 entitled to a certificate of registration upon payment of a transfer fee of \$2 and shall not be 27 28 required to pay the regular registration fee of 29 \$11.25. 30 в. Whenever ownership is transferred or the use 31 of a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle for which a registration certificate has already been issued 32 33 is discontinued, the old registration certificate shall be properly signed and executed by the owner showing that the ownership of the snow-34 35 36 mobile or 3-wheeled vehicle has been transferred 37 or its use discontinued and returned to the com-38 missioner within 10 days of the transfer or dis-39 continuance of use.

1 C. If there is a change of ownership of a snow-2 mobile or 3-wheeled vehicle for which a registracertificate number has previously been 3 tion 4 issued, the new owner shall apply for new а set forth the 5 registration certificate, shall original number in the application and shall 6 pay 7 the regular fee for the particular snowmobile or 8 3-wheeled vehicle involved.

9 Reciprocity. Reciprocity shall be allowed 9. to nonresidents from all states, provinces, countries or 10 11 districts which allow similar privileges to residents 12 of this State, providing they are covered by a valid 13 registration from that state, province, country or 14 district.

- A. If the snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle is
  owned by a nonresident, but is primarily operated
  by a Maine resident, it must be registered under
  this section.
- 19 B. Nothing in this subsection shall may be con-20 strued to authorize the operation of any snow-21 mobile <u>or three-wheeled vehicle</u> described in any 22 manner contrary to this subchapter.
- 23 10. Restrictions.

A. The registration certificate shall be subject
to inspection by any law enforcement officer on
demand.

- B. The registration number assigned to a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle shall be displayed in
  such form and manner as the commissioner may
  determine.
- C. The registrant shall notify the commissioner
  if a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle is
  destroyed, abandoned or permanently removed from
  this State.
- 35
   Sec. 10.
   12 MRSA §7825, sub-§1, as enacted by PL

   36
   1979, c.
   420, §1, is amended to read:
- 37 1. <u>Application and issuance</u>. Any person who is
   38 in the business of selling snowmobiles or 3-wheeled

vehicles in the State shall register as a dealer and
 secure a dealer's license from the commissioner.
 Dealers so registered and licensed need not register
 individual snowmobiles or 3-wheeled vehicles.

5 Sec. 11. 12 MRSA §7825, sub-§§4 and 5, as 6 enacted by PL 1979, c. 420, §1, is amended to read:

7 Temporary registrations and numbers. The com-4. 8 missioner may issue temporary numbers and registra-9 tions to bona fide dealers who may, upon the sale or 10 exchange of a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle, issue them to new owners in order to allow them to operate 11 12 snowmobiles or 3-wheeled vehicles for a period of 20 consecutive days only after the day of sale in 13 lieu of a permanent number as required by this subchapter. 14

15 Restrictions. Dealers shall display their 5. 16 dealer's number on each snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehi-17 cle being used until the sale of the snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle, whereupon it becomes the owner's 18 19 responsibility to register the snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle. 20

 Sec. 12.
 12 MRSA §7826, sub-§2, as enacted by PL

 22
 1979, c. 420, §1, is amended to read:

23 2. <u>Stop and identify requirement.</u> Any person 24 operating a snowmobile <u>or 3-wheeled vehicle</u> upon the 25 land of another shall stop and identify himself upon 26 the request of the landowner or his duly authorized 27 representative. Any person in violation shall be held 28 accountable to the owner under existing law.

29 Sec. 13. 12 MRSA §7827, as amended by PL 1981, 30 c. 698, §80, is further amended to read:

31 §7827. Prohibited acts

32 snowmobile 1. Operating unregistered or 33 3-wheeled vehicle. A person is guilty, except as pro-34 vided in subsection 23, paragraphs A and B, of oper-35 ating an unregistered snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle 36 if he operates a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle 37 which is not registered in accordance with section 38 7824.

1 2. Operating a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle 2 upon a controlled access highway. A person is guilty, except as provided in subsection 23, paragraph C, of 3 4 operating a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle upon а 5 controlled access highway if he operates a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle upon a controlled access highway 6 7 or within the right-of-way limits of a controlled ac-8 cess highway.

9 Unlawfully operating a 3. snowmobile or 10 3-wheeled vehicle on a plowed road. A person is 11 of unlawfully operating a quilty snowmobile or 12 3-wheeled vehicle on a plowed road if he operates а 13 snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle upon any plowed private road, or public road plowed privately without 14 15 public compensation, after having been forbidden to 16 do so by the owner thereof, the owner's agent or а 17 municipal official, either personally or by appropriate notices posted conspicuously on that road. 18

Operating a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle 19 4. on a public way. A person is guilty, except 20 as provided in subsection 3 and subsection 23, paragraph D, 21 operating a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle on a 22 of 23 public way if he operates a snowmobile or 3-wheeled 24 vehicle upon the main traveled portion, the sidewalks 25 or the plowed snowbanks of a public way.

26 Unlawfully operating a vehicle on a snow-4-A. mobile or 3-wheeled vehicle trail. A person is guilty 27 28 of unlawfully operating a vehicle on a snowmobile  $\mathbf{or}$ 29 3-wheeled vehicle trail if he operates any 4-wheel 30 vehicle, dune buggy, drive motorcycle or other 31 motorized vehicle, other than a snowmobile or 32 3-wheeled vehicle and appurtenant equipment, over the snow on roads and trails maintained for snowmobile or 33 34 3-wheeled vehicle use and financed in whole or in 35 part with funds from the Snowmobile Trail Fund, 36 unless such that use has been authorized by the land-37 owner or his agent, or unless the use is necessitated 38 by an emergency involving safety of persons or prop-39 erty.

40 5. Failing to stop a snowmobile or 3-wheeled 41 vehicle before entering a public way. A person is 42 guilty of failing to stop a snowmobile or 3-wheeled 43 vehicle before entering a public way if he fails to bring a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle to a complete stop before entering a public way.

3 6. Failing to yield right-of-way while operating 4 a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle. A person is guilty failing to yield the right-of-way while operating 5 of 6 a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle if he fails to 7 yield the right-of-way to all vehicular traffic while 8 operating a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle on a 9 public way.

10 7. Crossing a closed bridge, culvert, overpass 11 or underpass with a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle. 12 A person is guilty of crossing a closed bridge, cul-13 vert, overpass or underpass with a snowmobile or 14 3-wheeled vehicle if he crosses with a snowmobile or 15 3-wheeled vehicle a bridge, culvert, overpass or 16 underpass closed to snowmobiles or 3-wheeled vehicles 17 by the Commissioner of Transportation. The Commis-18 sioner of Transportation may, following a public 19 hearing, prohibit the crossing of an individual 20 bridge, overpass or underpass if he deterculvert, 21 mines that that crossing or use of the public way is 2.2 hazardous. Any bridge, culvert, overpass or underpass 23 closed by the Commissioner of Transportation must 24 shall be posted by appropriate notices.

25 Reckless operation of snowmobile or 3-wheeled 8. 26 vehicle. A person is guilty of reckless operation of snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle if he operates any 27 а 28 snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle in such a way as to 29 recklessly create a substantial risk of serious bod-30 ily injury to another person.

31 9. Operating a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle 32 under the influence. A person is guilty of operating 33 a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle under the influence if he operates any snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or 34 35 drugs. Standards, tests and procedures applicable in 36 37 determining whether a person is under the influence 38 within the meaning of this section shall be those 39 applicable pursuant to Title 29, sections 1312, 40 1312-B and 1312-C.

41 10. <u>Operating a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle</u> 42 to endanger. A person is guilty of operating a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle to endanger if he operates any snowmobile so or 3-wheeled vehicle as to endanger any person or property.

4 Operating a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle 11. 5 at greater than reasonable and prudent speed. A 6 person is guilty of operating a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle at greater than a reasonable and 7 8 prudent speed if he operates any snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle except at a reasonable and prudent 9 10 speed for the existing conditions.

11 12. <u>Unlawfully operating a snowmobile or</u> 12 <u>3-wheeled vehicle while underage</u>. A person is guilty 13 of unlawfully operating a snowmobile <u>or 3-wheeled</u> 14 <u>vehicle</u> while underage if he is under the age of 14 15 years and operates a snowmobile <u>or 3-wheeled</u> vehicle 16 across any public way maintained for travel.

17 13. Permitting an unaccompanied child to operate 18 snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle. A person is a 19 guilty, except as provided in subsection 23, paragraph E, of permitting an unaccompanied child to 20 21 operate a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle if he per-22 mits a child under 10 years of age to operate any 23 snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle unless he is accompa-24 nied by an adult.

25 14. Operating a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle 26 which exceeds noise limit. A person is guilty, except 27 as provided in subsection 23, paragraphs A and F, of 28 operating a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle which 29 exceeds the noise limit if he operates a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle above the following 30 noise 31 limits.

32 Every snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle manu-Α. 33 factured after October 1, 1973, and offered for 34 sale or sold in this State shall be constructed 35 to limit the total vehicle noise to not more than 82 decibels of sound pressure level at 50 feet on 36 the "A" scale, as measured by the SAE 37 standards J-192. 38

39B. Every snowmobileor 3-wheeled vehicle manu-40factured after February 1, 1975, and offered for41sale or sold in this State shall be constructed

to limit total vehicle noise to not more than 78
 decibels of sound pressure level at 50 feet on
 the "A" scale, as measured by the SAE standards
 J-192.

5 15. Unlawfully modifying snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle. A person is guilty, except as provided in 6 subsection 23, paragraph A, of unlawfully modifying a 7 snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle if he modifies snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle in a manner t 8 any 9 a manner that 10 amplifies or ethrwise otherwise increases total noise emission above that emitted by the snowmobile or 11 3-wheeled vehicle as originally constructed, regard-12 13 less of the date of manufacture.

14 16. Operating a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle 15 with insufficient lights. A person is guilty, except 16 as provided in subsection 23, paragraph A, of oper-17 ating a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle with insuffi-18 cient lights if he operates a snowmobile or 3-wheeled 19 vehicle which is not equipped as follows:

20A. Every snowmobileor 3-wheeled vehicle shall21have mounted on the front at least oneheadlight22capable of casting a white beam for a distance of23at least 100 feet directly ahead of the snow-24mobile or 3-wheeled vehicle; and

B. Every snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle shall
have mounted on the rear at least one lamp capable of displaying a red light which shall be visible at a distance of at least 100 feet behind
the snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle.

30 17. Failure to use snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehi-31 <u>cle lights.</u> A person is guilty, except as provided 32 in subsection 23, paragraph A, of failure to use 33 snowmobile <u>or 3-wheeled vehicle</u> lights if he fails to 34 use the lights required under subsection 16 as fol-35 lows:

A. During the period from 1/2 hour after sunset
to 1/2 hour before sunrise; and

B. At any time when, due to insufficient light
or unfavorable atmospheric conditions caused by
fog or otherwise, other persons, vehicles and

other objects are not clearly discernible for a
 distance of 500 feet ahead.

3 Operating a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle 18. on railroad tracks. A person is guilty of operating 4 5 snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle on railroad tracks a 6 if he operates any snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle 7 along or adjacent and parallel to the tracks of any 8 railroad within the limits of the railroad right-9 of-way without written permission from the railroad.

10 19. <u>Operating a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle</u> 11 <u>in a cemetery.</u> A person is guilty of operating a 12 snowmobile <u>or 3-wheeled vehicle</u> in a cemetery if he 13 operates any snowmobile <u>or 3-wheeled vehicle</u> in any 14 cemetery, burial place or burying ground.

15 20. Operating too close to certain buildings. A 16 person is guilty, except as provided in subsection 17 23, paragraph G, of operating too close to a dwell-18 ing, hospital, nursing home, convalescent home or 19 church if he operates a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehi-20 cle within 200 feet of any of those buildings.

21 21. <u>Unlawfully permitting operation</u>. A person is 22 guilty of unlawfully permitting operation of a snow-23 mobile <u>or 3-wheeled vehicle</u> if he owns a snowmobile 24 <u>or 3-wheeled vehicle</u> and knowingly permits it to be 25 operated in violation of any section of this subchap-26 ter.

27 22. <u>Failure to report accident</u>. A person is
28 guilty of failure to report a snowmobile <u>or 3-wheeled</u>
29 <u>vehicle</u> accident if:

30 A. He is the operator of any snowmobile or <u>3-wheeled vehicle</u> involved in any accident resulting in injuries requiring the services of a 31 32 33 physician, in death of any person or in property 34 damage to the estimated amount of \$100 or more; 35 some person acting for such an operator; or the owner of the involved snowmobile or 3-wheeled 36 vehicle having knowledge of the accident, 37 should 38 the operator of the snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehi-39 cle be unknown; and

1 B. He fails to give notice of the accident, by 2 the quickest means of communication, to a law 3 enforcement officer available nearest to the 4 place where the accident occurred.

23. Exceptions.

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A. Notwithstanding subsections 1, 14, 15, 16 and 17, snowmobiles or 3-wheeled vehicles operated at a prearranged racing meet whose sponsor has obtained a permit to hold such a meet from the commissioner are exempt from the provisions of this subchapter concerning registration, noise, horsepower, and lights during the time of operation at such the meets and at all prerace practice at the location of the meet.

- 15 B. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 16 1:
- 17 (1) No registration shall may be required 18 for a snowmobile <u>or 3-wheeled vehicle</u> oper-19 ated over the snow on land on which the 20 owner lives or on lands on which he is domi-21 ciled, provided the snowmobile <u>or 3-wheeled</u> 22 <u>vehicle</u> is not operated elsewhere within the 23 jurisdiction of this State;
- 24(2) No registration shall may be required25for a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle oper-26ated by a commercial ski area for the pur-27pose of packing snow or for rescue operation28thereon, unless the snowmobile or 3-wheeled29vehicle is required to cross a public way30during that operation; and
- 31(3) Snowmobiles or 3-wheeled vehicles owned32and operated in this State by the Federal33Government, the State or political subdivi-34sion of the State shall be exempt from35registration fees, but shall be registered36and required to display numbers.

C. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 2:

(1) Properly registered snowmobiles or <u>3-wheeled vehicles</u> may cross controlled access highways by use of bridges over or roads under those highways, or by use of roads crossing controlled access highways at grade; and

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(2) The Commissioner of Transportation may issue special permits for designated crossings of controlled access highways.

D. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 4:

(1) Properly registered snowmobiles or <u>3-wheeled vehicles</u> may operate on a public way only the distance necessary, but in no case to exceed 300 yards on the extreme right of the traveled way for the purpose of crossing, as directly as possible, a public way, sidewalk or culvert;

(2) Properly registered snowmobiles or <u>3-wheeled vehicles</u> may operate on a public way only the distance necessary, but in no case to exceed 500 yards on the extreme right of the traveled way for the sole purpose of crossing, as directly as possible, a bridge, overpass or underpass, provided that that operation can be made in safety and that it does not interfere with vehicular traffic approaching from either direction on the public way;

30(3) Snowmobiles or 3-wheeled vehicles may31operate on any portion of public ways when32the public way has been closed in accordance33with Title 23, section 2953;

34 (4) If the main traveled portion of а 35 public way is publicly plowed and utilized 36 by conventional motor vehicles, snowmobiles 37 3-wheeled vehicles may operate only on or 38 that portion of the way not maintained or 39 utilized for the operation of conventional 40 motor vehicles, except that operation on the left side of the way shall be prohibited 41

1	during the hours from sunset to sunrise on
2	the portion of the way not maintained or
3	utilized for the operation of conventional
4	motor vehicles. This subparagraph shall not
5	apply to a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle
6	operated by a public utility regulated by
7	the Public Utilities Commission while being
8	operated in the course of the utility's cor-
9	porate function, so that public utilities
10	may effectively and speedily carry out their
11	obligations to the public;
12	(5) Snowmobiles or 3-wheeled vehicles may
13	be operated on streets and public ways
14	during a period of emergency when the emer-
15	gency has been so declared by a police
16	agency having jurisdiction and when travel
17	by conventional motor vehicles is not
18	practicable. This subparagraph shall not
19	apply to a snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle
20	operated by a public utility regulated by
21	the Public Utilities Commission while being
22	operated in the course of the utility's cor-
23	porate function, so that public utilities
24	may effectively and speedily carry out their
25	obligations to the public; and
26	(6) Snowmobiles or 3-wheeled vehicles may
27	be operated on streets and public ways in
28	special snowmobile or 3-wheeled vehicle
29	events of limited duration conducted accord-
30	ing to a prearranged schedule, under a
31	permit from the governmental unit having
32	jurisdiction.
33	E. Notwithstanding subsection 13, that subsec-
34	tion does not apply on land which is owned by the
35	parent or guardian or on land where permission
36	for use has been granted to the parent or
37	guardian.
38	F. Notwithstanding subsection 14:
39	(1) Snowmobiles or 3-wheeled vehicles manu-
40	factured on or before October 1, 1973, may
41	be operated without reference to that sub-
42	section, unless they have been modified in
43	violation of subsection 15; and

1 (2) Snowmobiles or 3-wheeled vehicles manu-2 factured after October 1, 1973, but on or 3 before February 1, 1975, may be operated without reference to the requirements of 4 5 that subsection concerning the noise limit 6 of 78 decibels of sound pressure. 7 Notwithstanding subsection 20, that subsec-G. tion does not apply in the following situations: 8 9 (1) When operating on public ways in accor-10 dance with subsections 4, 5, 6 and 7 and 11 subsection 23, paragraph C; 12 (2) When operating on the frozen surface of 13 any body of water; and 14 (3) When operating on land which the oper-15 ator owns or is permitted to use. 16 STATEMENT OF FACT 17 This bill provides for the registration of 18 3-wheeled vehicles under the snowmobile law in Title Three-wheeled vehicles are established as a sep-19 12. 20 arate type of vehicle which is subject to the same provisions of the law as snowmobiles. Three-wheeled 21 22 vehicles are subject to a registration fee, the pro-23 ceeds of which are distributed in the same manner as 24 proceeds from snowmobile registration fees. 25 Three-wheeled vehicles are subject to the same prohibition as snowmobiles. In order to trails on private property, operators of to travel on 26 3-wheeled 27 28 vehicles are required to obtain the landowners 29 permission.

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