

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1022

H. P. 788

House of Representatives, February 21, 1973

Referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Simpson of Standish.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT Requiring the Registration of Off-highway Vehicles.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

R. S., T. 29, § 119, additional. Title 29 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 119 to read as follows:

§ 119. Off-highway vehicles; registration; procedures; fee; taxation

1. **Registration.** Off-highway vehicles must be registered annually with the Secretary of State, except that no registration shall be required if said vehicle is operated exclusively upon the private property of its owner.

2. **Definition.** "Off-highway vehicles" are defined as all motor vehicles not registered under this Title, but which are operated off the public ways, except farm tractors and like vehicles specifically exempted from registration and snowmobiles.

3. **Where registered.** At such times and under such circumstances as the Secretary of State shall specify in rules and regulations promulgated for the administration of this section, owners of off-highway vehicles shall register such vehicles in the office of the tax collector in the municipality where the owner resides. The fee for registration shall be \$5 per year but may be prorated by the regulations of the Secretary of State.

Upon completion of the registration form and payment of the registration fee to the tax collector, the owner shall receive a decal and a copy of the completed registration form. One copy of the completed registration form and 1/2 of the registration fee collected shall be transmitted by the tax collector to the Secretary of State within 5 days of receipt. One copy of the

completed registration form shall be retained in a file maintained by the tax collector. One-half of the registration fee collected shall accrue to the municipality registering said vehicle and may be expended for any purposes for which municipalities may expend their locally-raised tax monies.

The Secretary of State shall design and provide license plates and registration forms to the tax collector of each municipality in such quantities as he deems necessary for the implementation of this section.

4. **Rate.** In lieu of ad valorem taxation, the annual tax on each off-highway vehicle required to be registered under this section shall be \$6.

STATEMENT OF FACT

There are many thousands of motor vehicles operated in the State of Maine off the highway. These include motorcycles, scooters, trailbikes, all terrain vehicles and modified automobiles, etc. None of these vehicles are presently required to be registered. As a consequence, complaints regarding these vehicles are difficult to investigate, violations are virtually impossible to prosecute and responsibility for such vehicles is hard to pinpoint accurately. This bill assists in solving these problems. In addition, it establishes a registration fee; a procedure for registration directed by the Secretary of State, which procedure requires no additional duties of motor vehicle registry offices; and, establishes an annual tax similar to snowmobiles.