

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

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Legislative Document

No. 940

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S.P. 275

In Senate, February 20, 2001

**An Act to Improve Funding for Snowmobile Trail Maintenance.**

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Reference to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MILLS of Somerset.

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

2  
3       **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7824, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 227,  
4 §2, is further amended to read:

6       **2. Fee.** Except as provided in subsection 2-B, the annual  
7 snowmobile registration fee is as follows:

8       A. For residents, ~~\$25~~ \$30. The registration for a  
10 snowmobile owned by a resident is valid for one year,  
12 commencing on July 1st of each year; and

14       B. For nonresidents:

16           (1) ~~Thirty-five~~ Forty dollars for a 3-consecutive day  
18 registration. A person may purchase more than one  
20 3-day registration in any season;

22           (2) ~~Fifty~~ Fifty-five dollars for a 10-consecutive day  
24 registration. A person may purchase more than one  
26 10-day registration in any season; and

28           (3) ~~Sixty~~ Sixty-five dollars for a seasonal  
30 registration.

32       The registration for a snowmobile owned by a nonresident  
34 must specify the dates for which the registration is valid.

36       Five dollars from the registration fee in this subsection is  
38 to be transferred to a special fund administered by the  
40 Off-Road Recreational Vehicle Division of the Bureau of  
42 Parks and Lands within the Department of Conservation. The  
44 funds must be used to assist any entity that has a  
46 snowmobile trail grooming contract with the bureau in the  
48 purchase of trail grooming equipment.

50       **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §7824, sub-§9**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 227,  
§4, is further amended to read:

52       **9. Requirement.** Except as specifically provided in this  
54 subsection, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, a  
56 snowmobile belonging to a nonresident may be possessed or  
58 operated by any person in this State ~~without-being-registered-in  
60 this-State~~ as long as:

62       A. The snowmobile is properly registered in this State in  
64 the name of a nonresident owner of the snowmobile; ~~and,~~

66       ~~B. The nonresident owner of the snowmobile is a resident of  
68 a state, province, country or district with which this State  
70 has reciprocity.~~

2 For purposes of this subsection, "state, province, country or  
3 district with which this State has reciprocity" means a state,  
4 province, country or district that shares a common border with  
5 this State and that offers similar privileges to residents of  
6 this State. A state, province, country or district does not  
7 offer similar privileges if Maine residents holding a valid Maine  
8 snowmobile registration are charged a fee for access to the trail  
9 system in that state, province, country or district, or if, as  
10 determined by the commissioner, privileges and opportunities  
11 offered to snowmobile users in that state, province, country or  
12 district are not otherwise comparable to those offered in this  
13 State.

14  
15 A snowmobile owned by a nonresident may not be issued a resident  
16 registration. Nothing in this subsection authorizes the  
17 operation of any snowmobile in any manner contrary to this  
18 subchapter. This subsection does not apply to snowmobiles and  
19 grooming equipment registered to snowmobile clubs, municipalities  
20 or counties from bordering states or provinces and engaged in  
21 trail grooming.

22  
23 **Sec. 3. 36 MRSA §2903-B**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 502, Pt.  
24 E, §30, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

25 **§2903-B. Snowmobile fuel use**

26  
27 The Legislature finds as a fact that the percentage of  
28 "gasoline tax" revenue paid by snowmobile users, is not less than  
29 .8% of the total "gasoline tax" collected. Based on this  
30 finding, there is set aside .8% of the total excise tax on  
31 internal combustion engine fuel sold or used within the State,  
32 excluding combustion engine fuel for aircraft. From this .8%  
33 allocation, 10% must be paid to the Treasurer of State to be made  
34 available to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for  
35 the purposes set forth in Title 12, section 7824. The remaining  
36 90% of the .8% must be credited to the Snowmobile Trail Fund of  
37 the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands under  
38 Title 12, section 7824. The State Tax Assessor shall certify to  
39 the State Controller by the 15th day of each month the amounts to  
40 be credited under this section as of the close of the State  
41 Controller's records for the previous month.

42  
43

44  
45 **SUMMARY**

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47 This bill increases resident and nonresident snowmobile  
48 registration rates by \$5 and dedicates that amount to a special  
49 fund administered by the Off-Road Recreational Vehicle Division  
50 of the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands to

2 assist any entity that has a snowmobile trail grooming contract  
with the bureau in the purchase of trail grooming equipment.  
4 Exempt from this increase is any snowmobile registered as an  
antique under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 7824,  
subsection 2-B.

6  
8 Under current law, a snowmobile may be operated in the State  
without being registered in the State if the snowmobile is  
10 registered in another area that grants Maine residents a  
reciprocal privilege. This bill requires all nonresidents who  
12 snowmobile in Maine to register their snowmobiles in Maine. This  
bill specifically excludes from this requirement snowmobiles and  
14 grooming equipment registered to snowmobile clubs,  
municipalities, counties or provinces and engaged in trail  
grooming activities.

16  
18 This bill also increases the percentage set aside from the  
"gasoline tax" from .5% to .8%.