

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1547

2

Date: 4/1/20

(Filing No. S-612)

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AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

4

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

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STATE OF MAINE

6

SENATE

7

132ND LEGISLATURE

8

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

9

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 631, L.D. 1547, "An Act to Use a Portion of the Sales Tax on Snowmobiles to Fund Maine's Snowmobile Trail Programs"

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Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

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'An Act to Fund Maine's Snowmobile Trail Programs'

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Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

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'Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §1893, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. B, §21 and affected by c. 614, §9, is further amended to read:

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A. Within available funds, the snowmobile program shall develop and maintain snowmobile trails and provide educational and informational materials for the use of operators of snowmobiles. The bureau may charge a reasonable fee for such services and materials when the money credited to it under chapter 937 is insufficient to satisfy the demand for those services and materials. All fees collected must be deposited in the bureau's Snowmobile Trail Fund. The bureau shall administer the Snowmobile Trail Fund, and the snowmobile program's other activities must be conducted pursuant to subsection 3. The Snowmobile Trail Fund receives funding as provided in section 10206, subsection 2-A, chapter 937 and Title 36, section 2903-D, subsection 2.

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Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §10206, sub-§2, ¶A, as amended by PL 2007, c. 556, §1; PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §§5 and 7; and PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §24, is further amended to read:

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A. After the transfers provided in ~~section 13104, subsection 4~~ subsection 2-A, the snowmobile and trail-grooming equipment registration fee for residents collected under chapter 937 is credited as follows:

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(1) Twenty-two percent is credited to the General Fund as undedicated revenue;

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(2) Fifty-two percent is credited to the Snowmobile Trail Fund of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands; and

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1 (3) Twenty-six percent is annually distributed to the municipality of the owner's
 2 residence as shown on the owner's registration certificate, except that in
 3 unorganized territory, 26% is annually distributed to the county of the owner's
 4 residence as shown on the owner's registration certificate and credited to the
 5 unorganized territory fund of that county established in Title 30-A, section 7502.

6 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §10206, sub-§2, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 556, §2; PL
 7 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §§5 and 7; and PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §24, is further amended to read:

8 B. After the transfers provided in ~~section 13104, subsection 4~~ subsection 2-A, the
 9 snowmobile registration fee for nonresidents collected under chapter 937 is credited as
 10 follows.

- 11 (1) Eighteen percent is credited to the General Fund as undedicated revenue.
- 12 (2) Seven percent is credited to the Snowmobile Enforcement Fund established
- 13 under section 10258.
- 14 (3) The remainder is credited to the Snowmobile Trail Fund of the Department of
- 15 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands.

16 **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §10206, sub-§2-A** is enacted to read:

17 **2-A. Distribution of revenue from snowmobile registrations. Revenues received**
 18 **for snowmobile registration fees must be disbursed and used as follows.**

19 **A. The snowmobile registration fee for residents collected under section 13104,**
 20 **subsection 4, paragraph A is credited as follows:**

- 21 **(1) For registrations issued July 1st to December 15th of each year, \$17 must be**
 22 **transferred to the Snowmobile Trail Fund;**
- 23 **(2) For registrations issued July 1st to December 15th of each year, \$10 must be**
 24 **transferred to a special fund administered by the Off-road Recreational Vehicle**
 25 **Office;**
- 26 **(3) For registrations issued December 16th of each year to June 30th of the**
 27 **following year, \$30 must be transferred to the Snowmobile Trail Fund; and**
- 28 **(4) For registrations issued December 16th of each year to June 30th of the**
 29 **following year, \$12 must be transferred to a special fund administered by the Off-**
 30 **road Recreational Vehicle Office.**

31 **B. The snowmobile registration fee for nonresidents collected under section 13104,**
 32 **subsection 4, paragraph B is credited as follows:**

- 33 **(1) For registrations issued July 1st to December 15th of each year, \$21 from each**
 34 **seasonal registration fee must be transferred to the Snowmobile Trail Fund;**
- 35 **(2) For registrations issued July 1st to December 15th of each year, \$15 from each**
 36 **seasonal registration fee must be transferred to a special fund administered by the**
 37 **Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office;**
- 38 **(3) For registrations issued December 16th of each year to June 30th of the**
 39 **following year, \$47 from each seasonal registration fee must be transferred to the**
 40 **Snowmobile Trail Fund;**

1 (4) For registrations issued December 16th of each year to June 30th of the
 2 following year, \$20 from each seasonal registration fee must be transferred to a
 3 special fund administered by the Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office;

4 (5) Five dollars from each 3-consecutive-day registration fee and 10-consecutive-
 5 day registration fee must be transferred to the Snowmobile Enforcement Fund
 6 established under section 10258; and

7 (6) Fifty-one dollars from each 3-consecutive-day registration fee and \$51 from
 8 each 10-consecutive-day registration fee must be transferred to the Department of
 9 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and credited in the following manner: \$33
 10 must be transferred to the Snowmobile Trail Fund and \$18 must be transferred to
 11 a special fund administered by the Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office.

12 For purposes of this subsection, "Snowmobile Trail Fund" means the Snowmobile Trail
 13 Fund of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and
 14 Lands as described in section 1893, subsection 1 and "Off-road Recreational Vehicle
 15 Office" means the office established under section 1893.

16 Funds transferred to a special fund administered by the Off-road Recreational Vehicle
 17 Office pursuant to this subsection must be used to assist an entity that has a snowmobile
 18 trail grooming contract with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry,
 19 Bureau of Parks and Lands in the purchase of trail-grooming equipment. The funds may
 20 also be used for the repair or overhaul of trail-grooming equipment.

21 Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §13104, sub-§4, as corrected by RR 2021, c. 1, Pt. A, §9, is
 22 amended to read:

23 4. Fee. Except as provided in subsection 5, the annual snowmobile registration fee is
 24 as follows:

25 A. For residents, for registrations issued July 1st to December 15th of each year, \$55;
 26 for registrations issued December 16th of each year to June 30th of the following year,
 27 \$70. The registration for a snowmobile owned by a resident is valid for one year,
 28 commencing on July 1st of each year; and

29 B. For nonresidents:

30 (1) ~~Seventy-four~~ Ninety-four dollars for a 3-consecutive-day registration. A
 31 person may purchase more than one 3-day registration in any season;

32 (2) ~~One hundred and nineteen dollars~~ For registrations issued July 1st to December
 33 15th of each year, \$119; for registrations issued December 16th of each year to
 34 June 30th of the following year, \$150 for a seasonal registration; and

35 (3) ~~Ninety-nine~~ One hundred nineteen dollars for a 10-consecutive-day
 36 registration. A person may purchase more than one 10-day registration in any
 37 season.

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

40 ~~Ten dollars from each resident registration fee and \$15 from each nonresident registration~~
 41 ~~fee collected pursuant to this subsection must be transferred to a special fund administered~~
 42 ~~by the Off-Road Vehicle Division of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department~~

1 ~~of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The funds must be used to assist any entity that~~
 2 ~~has a snowmobile trail grooming contract with the Bureau of Parks and Lands in the~~
 3 ~~purchase of trail grooming equipment. The funds also may be used for the repair or~~
 4 ~~overhaul of trail grooming equipment.~~

5 ~~Seventeen dollars from each resident snowmobile registration fee must be transferred to~~
 6 ~~the Snowmobile Trail Fund of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry,~~
 7 ~~Bureau of Parks and Lands.~~

8 ~~Sixteen dollars from each nonresident 3-day snowmobile registration fee, \$16 from each~~
 9 ~~nonresident 10-day snowmobile registration fee and \$21 from each nonresident seasonal~~
 10 ~~snowmobile registration fee must be transferred to the Snowmobile Trail Fund of the~~
 11 ~~Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands.~~

12 ~~Five dollars from each nonresident 3-day snowmobile registration fee and 10-day~~
 13 ~~snowmobile registration fee must be transferred to the Snowmobile Enforcement Fund~~
 14 ~~established under section 10258.~~

15 **Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §13104, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:**

16 **4-A. Review of snowmobile registration fees and trail maintenance needs.** In
 17 consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the
 18 department shall review snowmobile registration fees and maintenance needs of designated
 19 state-approved snowmobile trails in 2028 and 2029 and every 2 years thereafter. The
 20 commissioner shall report the findings and recommendations from the review to the joint
 21 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife
 22 matters by February 1st each year a review is required. The committee may report out
 23 legislation related to snowmobile registration fees and maintenance needs of snowmobile
 24 trails to the session of the Legislature in which the report is received.

25 **Sec. 7. 36 MRSA §2903-D, sub-§2, ¶A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 668, §1, is**
 26 **further amended to read:**

27 **A.** The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife receives 13.41% of that
 28 amount, to be used by the commissioner for the purposes set forth in Title 12, section
 29 1893, subsection 3, section 10206, ~~subsection~~ subsections 2 and 2-A, section 13104,
 30 subsections 2 to 10 and section 13105, subsection 1; and

31 **Sec. 8. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
 32 allocations are made.

33 **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF**

34 **Off-Road Recreational Vehicles Program Z224**

35 Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the programming and information technology
 36 costs associated with changes to the snowmobile registration system.

37 OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
38 All Other	\$0	\$230,768
39		
40 OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$230,768

41 **Sec. 9. Effective date.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2027.'

1 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
2 number to read consecutively.

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This amendment replaces the bill, changes the title and does the following.

5 1. Currently, the annual snowmobile registration fee for a resident is \$55. The
6 amendment increases the registration fee for a registration issued December 16th of each
7 year to June 30th of the following year to \$70.

8 2. Currently, the seasonal registration fee for a nonresident is \$119. The amendment
9 increases the registration fee for a registration issued December 16th of each year to June
10 30th of the following year to \$150.

11 3. The amendment also increases the nonresident 3-consecutive-day registration fee
12 from \$74 to \$94 and the nonresident 10-consecutive-day registration fee from \$99 to \$119.

13 4. The amendment also requires that snowmobile registration fees collected December
14 16th of each year to June 30th of the following year must be transferred to the Department
15 of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The amendment specifies how the funds must
16 be allocated, with a portion of the funds allocated to the Snowmobile Trail Fund of the
17 Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands and a
18 portion of the funds allocated to a special fund administered by the Off-road Recreational
19 Vehicle Office of the bureau.

20 5. The amendment provides an effective date of July 1, 2027 for these changes.

21 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

22 (See attached)



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1547

LR 719(02)

An Act to Use a Portion of the Sales Tax on Snowmobiles to Fund Maine's Snowmobile Trail Programs

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S. Leitz)
 Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
 Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
Appropriations/Allocations				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$230,768	\$0	\$0
Revenue				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$0	\$906,541	\$906,541

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill increases snowmobile registration fees for both resident and nonresident registrations and revises the distribution of registration fee revenue starting July 1, 2027. The bill increases the resident snowmobile registration fee from \$55 to \$70 for registrations issued beginning December 16 through June 30 of each year. The bill also increases the nonresident 3-consecutive-day registration fee from \$74 to \$94, the 10-consecutive-day registration fee from \$99 to \$119 and the seasonal registration fee from \$119 to \$150 for registrations issued beginning December 16 through June 30.

The bill directs a fixed amount of each snowmobile registration fee to the Snowmobile Trail Fund (STF) and a special fund administered by the Off-Road Vehicle Office (ORV) within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF) prior to the application of the existing percentage-based distributions in current statute. The fixed amount distributions are noted below:

Resident

Registration Period	STF	ORV
July 1 – December 15	\$17 per registration	\$10 per registration
December 16 – June 30	\$30 per registration	\$12 per registration

Nonresident Seasonal

Registration Period	STF	ORV
July 1 – December 15	\$21 per registration	\$15 per registration
December 16 – June 30	\$47 per registration	\$20 per registration

Nonresident Temporary

Registration Type	STF	ORV
3-day	\$33 per registration	\$18 per registration
10-day	\$33 per registration	\$18 per registration

Based on current snowmobile registrations, it is estimated that the registration fee increases will generate an additional \$906,541 in Other Special Revenue Funds revenue starting in fiscal year 2027-28. These estimates are based on current registration volumes and an assumed distribution of registrations throughout the year, with 40% of annual and seasonal registrations occurring before December 16 and 60% occurring thereafter. Actual revenue will depend on registration activity and timing.

CA(5-612)

This bill includes one-time Other Special Revenue Funds allocations of \$230,768 to the ACF in fiscal year 2026-27 to reimburse the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for the programming and IT costs related to updates to the current registration system to incorporate the new fee and registration distributions.