

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 24-0550.01 Jery Payne x2157

SENATE BILL 24-056

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Hinrichsen, Will

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

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Senate Committees  
Transportation & Energy

House Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING PROGRAMS FOR OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE USERS, AND, IN  
102 CONNECTION THEREWITH, EXEMPTING COMMERCIAL USE ON  
103 PRIVATE PROPERTY FROM SNOWMOBILE REGISTRATION,  
104 CREATING AN OUT-OF-STATE SNOWMOBILE PERMIT TO DRIVE ON  
105 PUBLICLY OWNED LANDS, AND ADDING THE SEARCH AND RESCUE  
106 FEE TO SNOWMOBILE AND OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE PERMITS.

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Bill Summary

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

Current law requires a snowmobile owner to register the

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

snowmobile, but exempts snowmobiles that are used only on private property for private, noncommercial use. The bill expands the exemption to cover all use on private property, regardless of whether the snowmobile is used commercially.

In current law, the snowmobile recreation fund is used to, among other things, establish and maintain snowmobile trails and related facilities. A resident of Colorado who uses a snowmobile on publicly owned land must register the snowmobile and pay a fee, which is deposited in the snowmobile recreation fund. The bill repeals a \$5 per registration cap on the amount of the fee that can be used for administration.

The bill creates an out-of-state snowmobile permit that an owner or operator of an out-of-state snowmobile must obtain and display to drive the snowmobile on publicly owned land. To get the permit, the owner must pay a fee in an amount set by the parks and wildlife commission.

Exceptions are created for snowmobiles:

- Owned by governments;
- Operated in an organized event authorized by the government with jurisdiction over the land on which the snowmobile is operated; and
- Operated on publicly owned land for nonrecreational purposes.

The fine for a violation is \$100. Permits are valid for one year from April 1 to March 31 and are issued by agents of the director of the division of parks and wildlife.

Current law creates a search and rescue program that pays for backcountry search and rescue operations. Snowmobile and off-highway vehicle registrations require the payment of a search and rescue fee, which entitles the payer of the fee to be covered by the program. The bill adds the search and rescue fee to out-of-state snowmobile permits and off-highway use permits.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 33-14-102, **amend**  
3 (6)(c) as follows:

4           **33-14-102. Snowmobile registration - fees - applications -**  
5 **requirements - penalties - exemptions - rules.** (6) No registration under  
6 this section is required for the following snowmobiles:

7           (c) Snowmobiles used strictly on private property; ~~for private,~~

1 noncommercial purposes;

2 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 33-14-106, **amend**  
3 (1) as follows:

4 **33-14-106. Snowmobile recreation fund - creation - use of**  
5 **money.** (1) (a) THE SNOWMOBILE RECREATION FUND IS CREATED IN THE  
6 STATE TREASURY.

7 (b) Except as provided pursuant to subsection (2) of this section,  
8 all fees from the registration of snowmobiles, ALL MONEY COLLECTED FOR  
9 THE ISSUANCE OF OUT-OF-STATE SNOWMOBILE PERMITS PURSUANT TO  
10 SECTION 33-14-121, all money collected for fines under this article 14,  
11 and all interest earned on the fees and fines ~~shall be~~ ARE credited to the  
12 snowmobile recreation fund. ~~hereby created, and shall be used~~ THE  
13 DIVISION AND COMMISSION SHALL USE THE MONEY IN THE FUND for the  
14 administration of this article 14 and for the establishment and  
15 maintenance of snowmobile trails, vehicle parking areas, and facilities.  
16 ~~However, any fee money collected in excess of five dollars per original~~  
17 ~~or renewal registration shall be used exclusively for direct services and~~  
18 ~~not administrative costs.~~

19 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 33-14-107, **amend**  
20 (1) introductory portion and (1)(c); and **add** (1)(d) as follows:

21 **33-14-107. Rules.** (1) The commission shall adopt rules, in the  
22 manner provided by article 4 of title 24, ~~C.R.S.~~, for the following  
23 purposes:

24 (c) Formulation of other ~~regulations~~ RULES concerning the use of  
25 snowmobiles, but not in any way inconsistent with ~~the provisions of this~~  
26 ~~article~~ ARTICLE 14; AND

27 (d) PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS TO IMPLEMENT AND

1 ADMINISTER THE OUT-OF-STATE SNOWMOBILE PERMIT PROGRAM CREATED  
2 IN SECTION 33-14-121.

3 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 33-14-121 as  
4 follows:

5 **33-14-121. Out-of-state snowmobile permit program - fees -**  
6 **requirements - exemptions - rules - penalty - repeal.** (1) NO LATER  
7 THAN JANUARY 1, 2025, THE DIVISION SHALL ESTABLISH BY RULE THE  
8 OUT-OF-STATE SNOWMOBILE PERMIT PROGRAM.

9 (2) (a) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION,  
10 AN OWNER OR OPERATOR OF AN OUT-OF-STATE SNOWMOBILE SHALL  
11 OBTAIN AN OUT-OF-STATE SNOWMOBILE PERMIT WHEN USING THE  
12 SNOWMOBILE FOR RECREATIONAL TRAVEL UPON PUBLICLY OWNED LAND.

13 (b) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, A  
14 SNOWMOBILE DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION MUST  
15 DISPLAY A PERMIT AS REQUIRED BY THE DIVISION WHEN BEING USED FOR  
16 RECREATIONAL TRAVEL ON PUBLICLY OWNED LAND.

17 (c) (I) THIS SUBSECTION (2) TAKES EFFECT APRIL 1, 2025.

18 (II) THIS SUBSECTION (2)(c) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026.

19 (3) THE OWNER OR OPERATOR OF THE FOLLOWING SNOWMOBILES  
20 NEED NOT COMPLY WITH SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION:

21 (a) SNOWMOBILES OWNED BY THE UNITED STATES OR ANOTHER  
22 STATE OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF ANOTHER STATE IF THE OWNERSHIP  
23 IS CLEARLY DISPLAYED ON THE SNOWMOBILE;

24 (b) SNOWMOBILES OPERATED IN AN ORGANIZED COMPETITIVE OR  
25 NONCOMPETITIVE EVENT ON PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY OWNED OR LEASED  
26 LAND; EXCEPT THAT THIS EXEMPTION DOES NOT APPLY UNLESS THE  
27 AGENCY EXERCISING JURISDICTION OVER THE LAND SPECIFICALLY

1 AUTHORIZES THE ORGANIZED EVENT; OR

2 (c) SNOWMOBILES OPERATED ON PUBLICLY OWNED LAND FOR  
3 NONRECREATIONAL PURPOSES, INCLUDING LOGGING, MINING, GRAZING  
4 LIVESTOCK, FIREWOOD-CUTTING, AND TAKING TREES FOR  
5 NONCOMMERCIAL PURPOSES.

6 (4) OUT-OF-STATE SNOWMOBILE PERMITS, WHEN ISSUED ON OR  
7 BEFORE APRIL 1 OF EACH YEAR FOR USE IN THE NEXT PERMIT YEAR, ARE  
8 VALID FOR ONE YEAR FROM APRIL 1 THROUGH THE FOLLOWING MARCH 31,  
9 AND PERMITS ISSUED AFTER APRIL 1 FOR THE CURRENT PERMIT YEAR  
10 EXPIRE ON MARCH 31 OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

11 (5) (a) AGENTS, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 33-12-104, SHALL SELL  
12 OUT-OF-STATE SNOWMOBILE PERMITS.

13 (b) THE COMMISSION SHALL SET THE AMOUNT OF THE FEE TO BE  
14 PAID FOR THE PERMIT BY RULE AND DEPOSIT THE FEES IN THE SNOWMOBILE  
15 RECREATION FUND CREATED IN SECTION 33-14-106 (1)(a).

16 (6) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION COMMITS A CIVIL  
17 INFRACTION AND, UPON CONVICTION, IS SUBJECT TO A FINE OF ONE  
18 HUNDRED DOLLARS.

19 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 33-1-112.5, **amend**  
20 (2)(b) as follows:

21 **33-1-112.5. Backcountry search and rescue fund - repeal.**

22 (2) (b) (I) Until the commission establishes a new amount in rules  
23 promulgated pursuant to subsection (2)(b)(II) of this section, a surcharge  
24 of twenty-five cents ~~shall be~~ IS assessed on each vessel, each snowmobile  
25 ~~and~~ REGISTRATION, EACH OUT-OF-STATE SNOWMOBILE PERMIT, each  
26 off-highway vehicle registration, AND EACH OFF-HIGHWAY USE PERMIT  
27 that is sold by the division or one of its agents pursuant to section

1 33-13-103, 33-14-102, ~~or 33-14-121~~, 33-14.5-102, OR ~~33-14.5-112~~.  
2 Receipts and interest from the surcharge ~~shall be~~ ARE deposited in the  
3 backcountry search and rescue fund created in subsection (1) of this  
4 section.

5 (II) On or after January 1, 2023, the commission shall promulgate  
6 rules establishing the amount of the surcharge that ~~shall be~~ IS assessed on  
7 each vessel, each snowmobile ~~and~~ REGISTRATION, EACH OUT-OF-STATE  
8 SNOWMOBILE PERMIT, each off-highway vehicle registration, AND EACH  
9 OFF-HIGHWAY USE PERMIT that is sold by the division or one of its agents  
10 pursuant to section 33-13-103, 33-14-102, ~~or 33-14-121~~, 33-14.5-102, OR  
11 ~~33-14.5-112~~. Receipts and interest from the surcharge ~~shall be~~ ARE  
12 deposited in the backcountry search and rescue fund created in subsection  
13 (1) of this section.

14 **SECTION 6. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
15 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
16 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
17 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
18 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
19 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
20 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
21 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
22 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.