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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2009-10

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Transportation, Tourism,
Forestry, and Natural Resources (SC-TTFNR)**

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
(**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
(**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

Senate

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources

Assembly Bill 599

Relating to: a speed limit for the operation of snowmobiles during the hours of darkness.

By Representatives Kaufert, Hubler, Honadel, Black, A. Ott, Ziegelbauer, Brooks, Ballweg, Kerkman, Gottlieb, Berceau, Lothian, Bies, Townsend and Zepnick; cosponsored by Senators Erpenbach, Cowles, Hansen and Taylor.

March 08, 2010 Referred to Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources.

April 1, 2010 **EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: (7) Senators Holperin, Sullivan, Plale, Hansen, Leibham, Kedzie and Grothman.

Absent: (0) None.

Moved by Senator Sullivan, seconded by Senator Kedzie that **Assembly Bill 599** be recommended for concurrence.

Ayes: (7) Senators Holperin, Sullivan, Plale, Hansen, Leibham, Kedzie and Grothman.

Noes: (0) None.

CONCURRENCE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 7, Noes 0

April 1, 2010 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (7) Senators Holperin, Sullivan, Plale, Hansen, Leibham, Kedzie and Grothman.

Absent: (0) None.

Appearances For

- None.

Appearances Against

- None.

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations For

- Dean Kaufert — 55th Assembly District

- Jon Erpenbach — 27th Senate District
- Josh Zepnick — 9th Assembly District
- Gary Eddy — WI DNR

Registrations Against

- None.

Registrations for Information Only

- None.

Elizabeth Novak
Committee Clerk



Rep. Dean Kaufert Hearing Testimony

AB 599 – Snowmobile 55mph Nighttime Speed Limit Senate Transportation, Tourism & Natural Resources Committee Senator Jim Holperin, Chairman 330 Southwest – April 1, 2010

Good morning Chairman Jim Holperin and committee members. I want to thank you for holding a hearing and vote today on Assembly Bill 599, which would remove the sunset date on Wisconsin's current 55mph nighttime speed limit for snowmobiles and make it permanent.

In 2006, Senator Erpenbach and I authored legislation that created a 55mph nighttime speed limit for snowmobiles on a trial basis to determine if it would help to reduce snowmobile fatalities in Wisconsin. This policy was a response to a near record level of snowmobile fatalities in 2005. The trial period is set to end on July 1, 2010. AB 599 would remove the sunset and make the 55mph nighttime speed limit permanent.

The evidence has shown that the 55mph nighttime speed limit has significantly helped to reduce the number of snowmobile fatalities in our state. According to the 2008-09 Snowmobile Program Report prepared by the DNR, snowmobile fatalities have declined each year since the 55mph speed limit was enacted in 2006. **Fatalities have fallen from 37 in 2005, to 23 last season, nearly a 40% decrease.** During the 2008-09 snowmobile season 70% of the fatalities happened at night and in 70% speed was a contributing factor of the accident.

It is important that we act on this before the end of the session, because if we do not, the 55mph nighttime speed limit will lapse before the start of the 2010-11 snowmobile season. This is an important safety regulation that needs to remain in place.

The amendment to this bill was drafted at the request of the DNR and provides an exemption for sanctioned snowmobile derbies. AB 599 is supported by the DNR and the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs (AWSC). It passed the State Assembly earlier this year by a unanimous vote.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. My office would be happy to answer any questions of the committee.