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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2005-06

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation...

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**

* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (June 2012)

Senate

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation

Assembly Bill 840

Relating to: a speed limit for operation of snowmobiles during the hours of darkness, enforcement and safety relating to the operation of snowmobiles, and making an appropriation.

By Representatives Kaufert, LeMahieu, Gard, Bies, Krawczyk, Meyer, Gunderson, Van Roy, Ziegelbauer, Petrowski, Owens, Huebsch, Kerkman, Towns, Ainsworth, J. Fitzgerald, Jeskewitz, Gronemus, Travis, Townsend, Davis, Ott and Hahn; cosponsored by Senators S. Fitzgerald, A. Lasee, Grothman, Breske, Erpenbach, Hansen and Plale.

December 15, 2005 Referred to Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation.

January 5, 2006 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (4) Senators Kedzie, Kapanke, Wirch and Breske.

Absent: (1) Senator Stepp.

Appearances For

- Bill Engfer — WI Department of Natural Resources
- Scott Makowski, Menomonee Falls — Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs
- Morris Nelson — Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs
- Dean Kaufert — State Representative, 55th Assembly District

Appearances Against

- Mike Knoebel, Oconomowoc

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations For

- Scott Fitzgerald — State Senator, 13th Senate District

Registrations Against

- None.

March 8, 2006 **EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: (5) Senators Kedzie, Stepp, Kapanke, Wirch and Breske.

Absent: (0) None.

Moved by Senator Kedzie, seconded by Senator Kapanke that **Senate Amendment 1** be recommended for introduction and adoption.

Ayes: (4) Senators Kedzie, Stepp, Kapanke and Wirch.
Noes: (1) Senator Breske.

INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF SENATE AMENDMENT 1
RECOMMENDED, Ayes 4, Noes 1

Moved by Senator Stepp, seconded by Senator Kapanke that **Senate Amendment 2** be recommended for introduction and adoption.

Ayes: (3) Senators Kedzie, Stepp and Kapanke.
Noes: (2) Senators Wirch and Breske.

INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF SENATE AMENDMENT 2
RECOMMENDED, Ayes 3, Noes 2

Moved by Senator Kapanke, seconded by Senator Kedzie that **Assembly Bill 840** be recommended for concurrence as amended.

Ayes: (5) Senators Kedzie, Stepp, Kapanke, Wirch and Breske.
Noes: (0) None.

CONCURRENCE AS AMENDED RECOMMENDED, Ayes 5, Noes 0

Dan Johnson
Committee Clerk



State Senator

Cathy Stepp

WISCONSIN'S 21ST DISTRICT

Statement by Senator Cathy Stepp on Assembly Bill 840

I apologize that I could not be in attendance today, but I am currently at another hearing in Cadott. I opposed a nighttime speed limit on snowmobiles when I served on the DNR Board and I remain opposed today. I believe the authors of AB 840 had good intentions when they wrote this bill, but I have several reasons for registering against it.

First, alcohol abuse, not speed in and of itself, is the cause of the most serious snowmobile accidents.

Second, one can safely operate a snowmobile at night on many trails or on wide open, frozen lakes at speeds over 55 miles per hour. In fact, driving a snowmobile can be safer at night because one can see an oncoming rider's headlight before one sees or hears the other sled.

Third, I worry about the adverse impact AB 840 would have on Wisconsin's tourism industry, should it become law. Thousands of snowmobile enthusiasts from within and outside of Wisconsin come up north every winter to enjoy the snow. This bill could be perceived as a "fun killer" that scares away snowmobiling tourists and their wallets.

Finally, I believe this bill would do more to help the DNR make money handing out speeding fines than it will to enhance snowmobile safety.

I imagine legislators might be reluctant to oppose this bill for fear of being labeled as being "against safety," but I think this bill is a solution in search of a problem. As a general rule, the legislature ought to err on the side of less regulation, not more.

DRAFT

AB 840

State of Wisconsin Summary Data for 2004-2005 Snowmobile Fatality Crashes/Incidents By Category

Data as of May 17, 2005 (37)

(Prepared by Rick Steimel, SRC, from DNR Fatal Summary Document and from submitted reports, #1-#37)

Section-1

Data in Section-1 relates to the 37 victims.

NUMBER OF FATALITIES
37

SEX
Male - 34
Female - 3

OPERATOR - PASSENGER
Operator - 34
Passenger - 3

VICTIM RESIDENCE
Illinois 3
Minnesota ... 3
Iowa 1
Wisconsin... 30

Victim's Home County (WI)
Adams
Ashland
Barron
Brown
Burnett
Chippewa
Dane (2)
Dodge
Forest
Jefferson
Lincoln (2)
Marathon (2)
Milwaukee
Oconto
Oneida
Outagamie (2)
Portage
Racine
Sauk
Sheboygan
Taylor
Washington
Waukesha (2)
Waupaca
Waushara

COMPLETED WI-SAFETY COURSE
Yes 11
No 19
Not stated .. 7

HELMET WORN
Yes 32
No 3
Unknown.... 2

BAC
0.000 9
0.001-0.049 .. 1
0.050-0.079 .. 1
0.080-0.099 .. 1
0.100-0.149 .. 4
0.150-0.199 .. 6
0.200-0.299 .. 9
Pending 6

AGES
5 33 (2)
11 34
14 36 (2)
17 37
19 38 (3)
23 39 (2)
24 (2) 41
25 42 (3)
26 44
27 (2) 48
29 50
30 (2) 52
32 61
 64

Section-2

Data in Section-2 relates to the 37 crashes/incidents

NUMBER OF CRASHES
37

LOCATION
Lake/River - 16
Trail - 14
Roadway - 3
Field - 2
Driveway - 1
Not stated - 1

STUDED TRACKS
Yes 10
No 18
Unknown 9

DATE
December **February**
17 5
26 (2) 16
31 19
January 21
2 26 (2)
6 (2) 27 (2)
7 (2) 28
8 (2) **March**
12 4
14 5 (3)
15 6
19 12
21 13
23 19 (2)
25 Pending (1)

TIME
Daylight..... 10
After Dark..... 27
Unkn (M-3a)..... 1
M-1a..... 1
1a-2a..... 1
2a-3a..... 2
3a-4a..... 3
4a-5a..... 0
5a-6a..... 0
6a-7a..... 0
7a-8a..... 0
8a-9a..... 1
9a-10a..... 2
10a-11a..... 0
11a-Noon..... 2
Noon-1p..... 2
1p-2p..... 1
2p-3p..... 1
3p-4p..... 1
4p-5p..... 0
5p-6p..... 1
6p-7p..... 1
7p-8p..... 3
8p-9p..... 2
9p-10p..... 1
10p-11p..... 5
11p-Midnight..... 5
Not Available 1

TYPE OF CRASH
Hit Object 17
Lake/Ice related 14
Collision with MV 1
Hit by 2nd sled (ice) 2
Hit by 2nd sled 1
Thrown, pinned 1
Details pending 1

CAUSE - FACTORS
Speed & Alcohol - 15
Speed - 9
Alcohol - 6
Controlled substance - 1
Inexperience - 1
Jumping hilltop - 1
Not stated - 4

COUNTY
Adams
Barron
Bayfield - 2
Brown
Burnett
Chippewa
Douglas
Forest - 4
Iron - 3
Jefferson - 2
Kenosha
Lincoln
Marinette
Oconto - 2
Oneida - 3
Price
Racine
Sauk - 2
Sawyer
Vilas - 5
Waukesha
Waushara

DAYS OF WEEK
Sun 8
Mon 2
Tue 1
Wed 3
Thur 2
Fri 7
Sat 13
Pending ... 1

Section-3 (over) =>

Data in Section-3 shows additional information not covered in sections 1 & 2.

State of Wisconsin
Additional Information
 for
Summary of 2004-2005 Fatality Crashes/Incidents

Section 3

Data in the two tables below (Section-3) shows supplemental information not included in sections 1 & 2 for the 37 fatal crashes/incidents.

Information in the first table covers crashes #15, 18, & 24, which each involved more than one snowmobile during 2004-05. The table below shows data for the 2nd sleds involved, since Section 1 of this document shows data for the operator for the 1st sled, and Section 2 shows data relative to the 1st sled.

CRASHES THAT INVOLVED MORE THAN ONE SLED

Crash No.	Data for:	Opr. or Pass.	Sex	Age	BAC	Safety Course	Helmet	Studded Track
15	2 nd sled and operator	O	M	19	None indicated	Yes	Yes	No
18	2 nd sled and operator	O	M	29	None indicated	Yes	Yes	Yes
24	2 nd sled and operator	O	M	39	0.057	No	Yes	Yes

Three of the fatalities for 2004-05 were passengers on snowmobiles. Data in the table below shows information for the operators of the three snowmobiles in those crashes that were fatal to their passengers, since Section 1 of this document shows data relative to the fatality victim.

DATA FOR OPERATORS OF SNOWMOBILES WHERE PASSENGERS WERE THE FATALITY VICTIMS

Crash No.	Opr. Or Pass.	Sex	Age	BAC	Safety Course	Helmet
14	O			None indicated		
26	O			Pending		
35	O			Alcohol indicated, level unkn.		