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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

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**2013 Senate Bill 343**

**Senate Substitute Amendment 1**

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Under current law, a person may not operate a snowmobile in this state unless the snowmobile is registered for public use or private use with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). A public use registration certificate is valid for two years and a private use registration certificate is valid from the date of issuance until ownership of the snowmobile is transferred. Among other exemptions, a person who owns a snowmobile is generally exempt from the requirement to register his or her snowmobile in Wisconsin if the snowmobile is covered by a valid registration in another state or country.

A person who owns a snowmobile that is not registered in Wisconsin must display a trail use sticker issued by DNR on the snowmobile to operate the snowmobile on a public snowmobile corridor. A trail use sticker is valid for one year. "Snowmobile corridor" is defined to mean "a snowmobile trail or other established snowmobile corridor that is open to the public but does not include a snowmobile route." The fee for a trail use sticker issued for a snowmobile that is exempt from registration is \$34.25. Any person, including DNR, who issues a trail use sticker, must collect, in addition to the trail pass fee, an issuing fee of 75 cents. The issuing agent may retain 50 cents of this fee to compensate the agent for the agent's services in issuing the sticker. The DNR is required to credit an appropriation for snowmobile trail aids in an amount equal to the number of trail use stickers issued in the previous fiscal year multiplied by \$32.

### **2013 SENATE BILL 343**

Senate Bill 343 requires most snowmobiles operated on a public snowmobile corridor in Wisconsin to display a trail use sticker issued by DNR. Under the bill, the fee a person pays for a trail pass sticker issued for snowmobiles registered in Wisconsin depends on whether the person is a member of a snowmobile club. The fee for a person who is not a member of a snowmobile club is \$34.25. The fee for a person who is a member of a snowmobile club is

\$14.25. "Snowmobile club" is defined, under the bill, as "an association organized in this state the members of which are members of the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs and that meets at least 3 times per year, that has at least 10 members, and that promotes responsible snowmobiling."

The bill also increases the fee for trail use stickers issued to persons who own snowmobiles that are exempt from registration from \$34.25 to \$44.25. With the 75-cent issuing fee, the cost of trail passes, under the bill, is \$15, \$35, and \$45.

## **SENATE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1**

Senate Substitute Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 343:

- Requires most snowmobiles operated on a public snowmobile corridor in Wisconsin to display a trail use sticker issued by DNR.
- Establishes trail pass sticker fees for snowmobiles registered in this state; modifies the fees for snowmobiles exempt from registration; and exempts certain snowmobiles from trail pass sticker fees.
- Makes changes to the formula for calculating the amount DNR is to credit to the supplemental snowmobile trail aid appropriation.
- Lengthens the registration period for a snowmobile from two years to three years.

### **Trail Use Stickers Required**

The substitute amendment requires most snowmobiles operated on a public snowmobile corridor in Wisconsin to display a trail use sticker issued by DNR.

### **Trail Use Sticker Fees**

The substitute amendment establishes two categories of fees for trail pass stickers issued in fiscal years 2015-16 to 2018-19 for snowmobiles registered in this state. These fees are as follows:

- \$9.25 (\$10 with the 75-cent issuing fee) for a snowmobile that is owned by a person who is a member of: (a) a snowmobile club; and (b) the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs. "Snowmobile club" is defined as "an association organized in this state that is a member of the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs, that meets at least 3 times per year, that has at least 10 members, and that promotes responsible snowmobiling."
- \$34.25 (\$35) for a snowmobile that is owned by a person who is not a member of a snowmobile club and the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs.

There is no fee for a snowmobile that has a model year that is at least 30 years earlier than the year in which the trail use sticker is issued.

The substitute amendment also increases the fee for trail use stickers issued, in fiscal years 2015-16 to 2018-19, to persons who own snowmobiles that are exempt from registration from \$34.25 (\$35) to \$49.25 (\$50). After that time period, the fee for these stickers reverts to \$34.25 (\$35).

### **Supplemental Snowmobile Trail Aid**

Under the substitute amendment, for fiscal years 2011-12 to 2015-16 and for fiscal year 2020-21 and for each fiscal year thereafter, the department is to credit to the appropriation for supplemental snowmobile aids an amount equal to the number of trail use stickers issued in the previous fiscal year multiplied by \$32. For fiscal years 2016-17 to 2019-20, DNR is to credit to this appropriation an amount equal to the number of trail use stickers issued in the previous fiscal year to owners of snowmobiles that are exempt from registration multiplied by \$47.

### **Registration Period**

The substitute amendment increases, from two years to three years, the period of time that a snowmobile public use registration certificate and a commercial snowmobile certificate is valid.

### **BILL HISTORY**

On February 19, 2014, the Joint Committee on Finance voted to introduce and recommend adoption of Senate Substitute Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 15; Noes, 0. On that same day, the committee voted to recommend passage of Senate Bill 343, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 14; Noes, 1.

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