AN ACT to create 350.055 (1m) of the statutes; relating to: snowmobile safety program field training requirements.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish a program of instruction on snowmobile laws, snowmobile safety, and related subjects. The program must be conducted by instructors certified by DNR and a person who satisfactorily completes the program receives a snowmobile safety certificate from DNR. Current law prohibits a person who is at least 12 years of age and who is born on or after January 1, 1985, from operating a snowmobile unless he or she holds a valid snowmobile safety certificate.

This bill prohibits a snowmobile safety program instructor conducting a snowmobile safety program from allowing a person taking the instructor’s program to operate a snowmobile as part of a field training exercise unless the snowmobile, in addition to meeting the requirements that apply to snowmobiles under current law, is in good working order and is equipped with a device that limits the speed of the snowmobile to 15 miles per hour.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 350.055 (1m) of the statutes is created to read:
350.055 (1m) An instructor certified by the department under sub. (1) who conducts a snowmobile program of instruction may not allow a person enrolled in that program to operate a snowmobile as part of a field training exercise unless the snowmobile, in addition to meeting the requirements that apply to snowmobiles under this chapter, is in good working order and is equipped with a device that limits the speed of the snowmobile to 15 miles per hour.