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**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
ACT MEMO**

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<b>2003 Wisconsin Act 253</b> [2003 Senate Bill 434]	<b>Youth Snowmobile Safety Certification Program</b>
2003 Acts: <a href="http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/">www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/</a>	Act Memos: <a href="http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm">www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm</a>

Act 253 revises the required content of the snowmobile safety certification program provided to youth under the age of 16 years.

Under current law, no person under the age of 12 years may operate a snowmobile unless the person is accompanied by either a parent or guardian or by a person over 18 years of age. No person who is at least 12 years of age and was born on or after January 1, 1985, may operate a snowmobile unless he or she holds a valid snowmobile safety certificate. Current law also directs the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish a snowmobile safety certification program that instructs persons on snowmobile laws and the safe use of snowmobiles. Each individual who satisfactorily completes this course receives a snowmobile safety certificate from the DNR.

Currently, the DNR offers this program primarily through classes. The department also offers a home study version of the program that places the instructional material on a CD-ROM disk.

Act 253 requires that for each person who is under the age of 16 years, the snowmobile safety certification program must include six hours of classroom instruction and authorizes an instructor to provide to the person up to two additional hours of instruction on the actual operation of a snowmobile.

Thus, as a result of the enactment of Act 253, youth under the age of 16 years must obtain a snowmobile safety certificate by completing a snowmobile safety certification program that includes six hours of classroom instruction and cannot use the DNR's CD-ROM-based course to obtain this certificate.

**Effective Date:** April 28, 2004.

**Prepared by:** John Stolzenberg, Chief of Research Services

April 22, 2004

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information,  
consult the text of the law and related legislative documents.