



## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #526

### **Motorcycle Recreation Program Repeal (DNR -- Fish, Wildlife, and Recreation)**

[LFB 2005-07 Budget Summary: Page 362, #20]

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#### **CURRENT LAW**

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides aids to municipalities and federal agencies for the acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of off-the-road motorcycle trails and facilities. In addition, DNR has funded development and maintenance activities for existing off-the-road trails at the Bong Recreation Area (in Kenosha County) and at the Black River State Forest (in Jackson County).

#### **GOVERNOR**

Eliminate the requirement that DNR administer a program to distribute funds to local units of government and federal agencies for the operation of off-the-road Type I motorcycle trails and facilities, and for such trails at the Black River State Forest and the Bong State Recreation Area. Delete the appropriation for the expenditure of revenues from the motorcycle account of the conservation fund.

#### **DISCUSSION POINTS**

1. The motorcycle recreation program had its sole source of external revenue (a \$2 surcharge on motorcycle registrations) eliminated in 1981. The only source of revenue to the account since that time has been the investment income earned on the account's cash balance. The cash balance in the account on July 1, 2004 was \$150,900, with \$66,000 in trail aids funding committed. Further, approximately \$4,000 in investment income is anticipated in 2004-05, leaving an available balance of approximately \$88,900 in the account. However, no expenditure authority

has been appropriated from the motorcycle account for 2004-05.

2. In recent years, requests for funding for off-road motorcycle trail development funding has declined in favor of ATV trail projects. Many ATV off-road trail projects are currently available for use by motorcycle enthusiasts as well. From this perspective, it may be appropriate to transfer any remaining balance in the motorcycle account to the appropriation supporting the development of ATV off-road trail projects in the ATV account of the conservation fund, to reflect the program's support of both types of off-road activity.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

1. Adopt the Governor's recommendation to eliminate the requirement that DNR administer a program to distribute funds to local units of government and federal agencies for the operation of off-the-road Type I motorcycle trails and facilities, and for such trails at the Black River State Forest and the Bong State Recreation Area, and to delete the appropriation for the expenditure of revenues from the motorcycle account of the conservation fund. Any unspent revenues remaining from the program would remain in the general balance of the conservation fund.

2. In addition to Alternative 1, specify that any remaining balance in the motorcycle account of the conservation fund (approximately \$88,900) be transferred to an appropriation supporting the development of ATV off-road trail projects in the ATV account of the conservation fund as of July 1, 2005.

3. Maintain current law.

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