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**Natural Resources, Ecology &  
Parks Committee**

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**HB 1455**

**Brief Description:** Limiting nuisance noise from off-road vehicles.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Haigh, Wallace, Kagi, Dickerson and Chase.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Lowers the maximum allowable noise from an ORV from 105 decibels to 96 decibels.
- States that it is a traffic infraction to operate a non-highway vehicle in a repetitive manner or on a track on any lands zoned as residential if the vehicle is operated within 600 feet of another property owner's residence, barn, stable, or similar penned area for keeping livestock.

**Hearing Date:** 2/11/05

**Staff:** Jason Callahan (786-7117).

**Background:**

The operators of a non-highway vehicle can be cited for a traffic violation for a number of reasons. These reasons include operating a vehicle in a manner that endangers another's property, not having proper lighting when on property not belonging to the owner, running the vehicle without a spark arrester, and driving in a manner that injures or destroys trees or other vegetation (RCW 46.03.120).

An operator can also be cited for a traffic violation if the muffler on the non-highway vehicle does not meet set standards. Mufflers for these vehicles must operate at a noise level of less than 87 decibels as measured on a scale set by the Society of Automotive engineers (SAE). If an SAE test is not available, then the muffler must not emit a noise louder than 105 decibels when measured at a 45-degree angle and 20 inches away from the exhaust pipe of a stationary non-highway vehicle running at one half of the vehicle's maximum allowable engine speed (RCW 46.03.120).

Traffic infractions for non-highway vehicles are punishable by a fine of not less than \$25 (RCW 46.09.190).

**Summary of Bill:**

The maximum noise level allowed to be omitted by the muffler of a non-highway vehicle is reduced from 105 decibels to 96 decibels when an SAE test is not available.

It is a traffic infraction to operate a non-highway vehicle in a repetitive manner or on a track on any lands zoned as residential if the vehicle is operated within 600 feet of another property owner' s residence, barn, stable, or similar penned area for keeping livestock.

Violations of this traffic infraction are subject to a fine of at least \$100 for the first offense. Multiple offenses are subject to a fine of twice the previous offense.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.