

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## ESSB 5179

---

**As Passed House:**

March 5, 2008

**Title:** An act relating to snowmobile registrations.

**Brief Description:** Modifying snowmobile registration provisions.

**Sponsors:** By Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Kastama and Rasmussen).

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Transportation: 2/27/08 [DP].

**Floor Activity:**

Passed House: 3/5/08, 96-0.

**Brief Summary of Engrossed Substitute Bill**

- A person who owns or transports a snowmobile in Washington, but does not operate it, is not required to register the snowmobile.

---

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 24 members: Representatives Clibborn, Chair; Flannigan, Vice Chair; Ericksen, Ranking Minority Member; Schindler, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Appleton, Campbell, Eddy, Herrera, Hudgins, Jarrett, Kristiansen, Loomis, Rodne, Rolfes, Sells, Simpson, Smith, Springer, Takko, Upthegrove, Wallace, Warnick, Williams and Wood.

**Staff:** Teresa Berntsen (786-7301).

**Background:**

Snowmobiles must be registered with the Department of Licensing (DOL) if owned, transported, or operated in Washington. There are specific exemptions for snowmobiles owned by a government entity or those owned by out-of-state residents temporarily operating snowmobiles in Washington.

---

*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

Registration fees for snowmobiles are set in state law at \$30 per year for snowmobiles less than 30 years old and \$12 per year for snowmobiles older than 30 years. Fees are deposited into the Snowmobile Account and appropriated to the State Parks and Recreation Commission for snowmobile purposes (e.g., operation and maintenance of snowmobile facilities, and the implementation of safety and education programs).

---

**Summary of Bill:**

Snowmobiles must be registered with the DOL only if operated in Washington. A person who owns or transports a snowmobile in Washington, but does not operate it, is not required to register the snowmobile.

Language directing the registration fees to be established by the State Parks and Recreation Commission is deleted.

---

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

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

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

(In support) Snowmobiles are the one vehicle that you have to pay a licensing fee for even if you don't use the snowmobile, so this bill addresses an equity issue.

(Opposed) None.

**Persons Testifying:** Senator Kastama, prime sponsor; and Howard Briggs, Washington Snowmobile Association.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.