
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1436

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Mosbrucker, Wylie, Orcutt, Pettigrew, Goodman, Irwin, and Griffey)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to snow bikes; amending RCW 82.80.140; reenacting
2 and amending RCW 46.10.300; adding a new section to chapter 46.16A
3 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 46.10 RCW; adding a new section
4 to chapter 46.61 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 46.04 RCW; and
5 providing an effective date.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.16A
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) It is the intent of the legislature to create a single
10 vehicle license that allows for the operation of a motorcycle as
11 either a motorcycle or as a snow bike.

12 (2) The department shall allow the owner of a motorcycle to
13 register the vehicle, or to renew the vehicle registration, for use
14 both as a motorcycle and as a snow bike. The terms of the
15 registration are those under this chapter that apply to motorcycles
16 and under chapter 46.10 RCW that apply to snowmobiles, except that
17 the registration period must be the same as that for snowmobiles.
18 Registration fees are equal to, and must be distributed in the same
19 manner as, those for snowmobiles under RCW 46.17.350(1)(1).

20 (3) The department shall establish a declaration subject to the
21 requirements of RCW 9A.72.085, which must be submitted by the

1 motorcycle owner when initially applying for a snowmobile
2 registration under chapter 46.10 RCW for the use of the converted
3 motorcycle as a snow bike. The declaration must include a statement
4 signed by the owner that a motorcycle that had been previously
5 converted to a snow bike must conform with all applicable federal
6 motor vehicle safety standards and state standards while in use as a
7 motorcycle upon public roads, streets, or highways. Once submitted by
8 the motorcycle owner, the declaration is valid until the vehicle is
9 sold or the title is otherwise transferred.

10 (4) The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.10
12 RCW to read as follows:

13 The owner of a motorcycle may apply for a snowmobile registration
14 as provided in section 1 of this act and under the terms of this
15 chapter to use the motorcycle, when properly converted, as a snow
16 bike for the purposes of this chapter.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 46.61
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 A person may operate a motorcycle, that previously had been
20 converted to a snow bike, upon a public road, street, or highway of
21 this state if:

22 (1) The person files a motorcycle highway use declaration, as
23 provided under section 1 of this act, with the department certifying
24 conformance with all applicable federal motor vehicle safety
25 standards and state standards while in use as a motorcycle upon
26 public roads, streets, or highways;

27 (2) The person obtains a valid driver's license and motorcycle
28 endorsement issued to Washington residents in compliance with chapter
29 46.20 RCW for a motorcycle; and

30 (3) The motorcycle conforms to all applicable federal motor
31 vehicle safety standards and state standards.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 46.04
33 RCW to read as follows:

34 "Snow bike" means a motorcycle or off-road motorcycle that has
35 been modified with a conversion kit to include (1) an endless belt
36 tread or cleats or similar means for the purposes of propulsion on
37 snow and (2) a ski or sled type runner for the purposes of steering.

1 **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.10.300 and 2010 c 161 s 225 are each reenacted
2 and amended to read as follows:

3 The following definitions apply throughout this chapter unless
4 the context clearly requires otherwise.

5 (1) "All terrain vehicle" means any self-propelled vehicle other
6 than a snowmobile, capable of cross-country travel on or immediately
7 over land, water, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, and other natural
8 terrain, including, but not limited to, four-wheel vehicles,
9 amphibious vehicles, ground effect or air cushion vehicles, and any
10 other means of land transportation deriving motive power from any
11 source other than muscle or wind; except any vehicle designed
12 primarily for travel on, over, or in the water, farm vehicles, or any
13 military or law enforcement vehicles.

14 (2) "Commission" means the Washington state parks and recreation
15 commission.

16 (3) "Committee" means the Washington state parks and recreation
17 commission snowmobile advisory committee.

18 (4) "Dealer" means a person, partnership, association, or
19 corporation engaged in the business of selling snowmobiles or all
20 terrain vehicles at wholesale or retail in this state.

21 (5) "Highway" means the entire width of the right-of-way of a
22 primary and secondary state highway, including any portion of the
23 interstate highway system.

24 (6) "Hunt" means any effort to kill, injure, capture, or disturb
25 a wild animal or wild bird.

26 (7) "Public roadway" means the entire width of the right-of-way
27 of any road or street designed and ordinarily used for travel or
28 parking of motor vehicles, which is controlled by a public authority
29 other than the Washington state department of transportation, and
30 which is open as a matter of right to the general public for ordinary
31 vehicular traffic.

32 (8) "Snowmobile" means both "snowmobile" as defined in RCW
33 46.04.546 and "snow bike" as defined in section 4 of this act.

34 **Sec. 6.** RCW 82.80.140 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 44 s 310 are each
35 amended to read as follows:

36 (1) Subject to the provisions of RCW 36.73.065, a transportation
37 benefit district under chapter 36.73 RCW may fix and impose an annual
38 vehicle fee, not to exceed one hundred dollars per vehicle registered
39 in the district, for each vehicle subject to vehicle license fees

1 under RCW 46.17.350(1) (a), (c), (d), (e), (g), (h), (j), or (n)
2 through (q) (~~and~~), for each vehicle subject to gross weight license
3 fees under RCW 46.17.355 with a scale weight of six thousand pounds
4 or less, and for each on-road motorcycle that registers under section
5 1 of this act as both a motorcycle and a snow bike.

6 (2)(a) A district that includes all the territory within the
7 boundaries of the jurisdiction, or jurisdictions, establishing the
8 district may impose by a majority vote of the governing board of the
9 district up to: (i) Twenty dollars of the vehicle fee authorized in
10 subsection (1) of this section, (ii) forty dollars of the vehicle fee
11 authorized in subsection (1) of this section if a twenty dollar
12 vehicle fee has been imposed for at least twenty-four months, or
13 (iii) fifty dollars of the vehicle fee authorized in subsection (1)
14 of this section if a vehicle fee of forty dollars has been imposed
15 for at least twenty-four months and a district has met the
16 requirements of RCW 36.73.065(6).

17 If the district is countywide, the revenues of the fee must be
18 distributed to each city within the district by interlocal agreement.
19 The interlocal agreement is effective when approved by the district
20 and sixty percent of the cities representing seventy-five percent of
21 the population of the cities within the district in which the
22 countywide fee is collected.

23 (b) A district may not impose a fee under this subsection (2):

24 (i) For a passenger-only ferry transportation improvement unless
25 the vehicle fee is first approved by a majority of the voters within
26 the jurisdiction of the district; or

27 (ii) That, if combined with the fees previously imposed by
28 another district within its boundaries under RCW 36.73.065(4)(a)(i),
29 exceeds fifty dollars.

30 If a district imposes or increases a fee under this subsection
31 (2) that, if combined with the fees previously imposed by another
32 district within its boundaries, exceeds fifty dollars, the district
33 shall provide a credit for the previously imposed fees so that the
34 combined vehicle fee does not exceed fifty dollars.

35 (3) The department of licensing shall administer and collect the
36 fee. The department shall deduct a percentage amount, as provided by
37 contract, not to exceed one percent of the fees collected, for
38 administration and collection expenses incurred by it. The department
39 shall remit remaining proceeds to the custody of the state treasurer.

1 The state treasurer shall distribute the proceeds to the district on
2 a monthly basis.

3 (4) No fee under this section may be collected until six months
4 after approval under RCW 36.73.065.

5 (5) The vehicle fee under this section applies only when renewing
6 a vehicle registration, and is effective upon the registration
7 renewal date as provided by the department of licensing.

8 (6) The following vehicles are exempt from the fee under this
9 section:

10 (a) Campers, as defined in RCW 46.04.085;

11 (b) Farm tractors or farm vehicles, as defined in RCW 46.04.180
12 and 46.04.181;

13 (c) Mopeds, as defined in RCW 46.04.304;

14 (d) Off-road and nonhighway vehicles, as defined in RCW
15 46.04.365;

16 (e) Private use single-axle trailer, as defined in RCW 46.04.422;

17 (f) Snowmobiles, as defined in RCW 46.04.546; and

18 (g) Vehicles registered under chapter 46.87 RCW and the
19 international registration plan.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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