
Transportation Committee

SSB 5332

Brief Description: Concerning off-road and wheeled all-terrain vehicles.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senator Padden).

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Restates the equipment requirements for both the on-road and the off-road uses of a wheeled all-terrain vehicle.

Hearing Date: 3/16/21

Staff: Mark Matteson (786-7145).

Background:

Wheeled All-Terrain Vehicles. A wheeled all-terrain vehicle (WATV) is a specific category of off-road vehicle authorized to travel on public roadways under certain circumstances. There are basically two types of WATVs. One is a motorized nonhighway vehicle weighing less than 1,500 pounds which is equipped with handlebars, four tires, and a seat with a height of at least 20 inches. The second type is a utility-type vehicle having a maximum width of less than 74 inches and a maximum weight of less than 2,000 pounds, that can travel on four or more low -pressure tires.

To be eligible to use the vehicle off-road, the owner must register the WATV and pay an \$18 fee and affix a metal tag to the rear of the vehicle with the appropriate off-road tab. The following equipment is required for off-road WATV use:

- a headlight and tail light between dusk and dawn when the vehicle is operated on property not owned by the operator; and
- a spark arrester and muffling device.

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A person who operates a WATV on a public roadway must have a valid driver's license for travel on public roadways and a current on-road vehicle registration. To obtain an on-road registration, the owner must first have the required on-road equipment installed and must have the WATV inspected by a licensed WATV dealer or repair shop; the inspector then fills out the WATV road use declaration. The owner must then submit the declaration to the Department of Licensing, pay a \$12 fee, and register the WATV for on-road use. The owner must affix a metal tag to the rear of an eligible WATV with the appropriate on-road tab. The equipment required for on-road use includes:

- a headlight;
- two tail lamps for utility-type WATVs, and one tail lamp for other WATVs;
- a stop lamp;
- reflectors;
- turn signals;
- two mirrors for utility-type WATVs, and one mirror for other WATVs;
- a windshield;
- a horn;
- brakes;
- a spark arrester and muffling device; and
- seatbelts, for utility-type WATVs.

Summary of Substitute Bill:

The equipment requirements for the use of a WATV for on-road and for off-road purposes are restated.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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