

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5016

As of January 20, 2021

Title: An act relating to tracked and wheeled all-terrain vehicles.

Brief Description: Concerning tracked and wheeled all-terrain vehicles.

Sponsors: Senators Warnick, Brown and Van De Wege.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 1/21/21.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows a wheeled all-terrain vehicle (WATV) to also be registered and used as a snowmobile like vehicle defined as a tracked all-terrain vehicle.
- Requires a WATV previously converted to a tracked all-terrain vehicle to meet applicable federal and state safety standards before being used again on public roads as a WATV.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Kimberly Johnson (786-7472)

Background: Snowmobiles. A snowmobile is a type of off-road vehicle capable of traveling over snow or ice, using an endless belt tread or cleats as a means of propulsion, and is steered by skis or sled-type runners. Snowmobiles are regulated under state law separately from other off-road vehicles. Snowmobiles are subject to a \$30 registration fee, which is deposited to the Snowmobile Account.

Wheeled All-Terrain Vehicles. A WATV is a specific category of off-road vehicle regulated separately under some aspects of a state law first enacted in 2013. There are two

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types of WATVs authorized to travel on public roads under certain circumstances. One is a motorized nonhighway vehicle:

- having handlebars 50 inches or less in width;
- having a seat height of at least 20 inches;
- weighing less than 1500 pounds; and
- having four tires with a diameter of 30 inches or less.

The second is a utility-type vehicle:

- designed for and capable of travel over designated roads;
- traveling on four or more low-pressure tires of 20 pounds per square inch or less;
- having a maximum width less than 74 inches;
- having a maximum weight of less than 2000 pounds; and
- having a wheelbase of 110 inches or less.

On-road use requires certain vehicle registration requirements including equipment and payment of a \$12 fee. WATV off-road use requires registration and payment of an \$18 fee.

Conversion kits are currently available, allowing WATVs to be used on snow or ice as a snowmobile.

Summary of Bill: "Tracked all-terrain vehicle" is defined within the snowmobile chapter of the RCW as a WATV, weighing less than 2000 pounds in stock configuration, with tracks or a combination of tracks and skis installed in place of the tires. The definition of snowmobile is broadened to include tracked all-terrain vehicles.

Allows the owner of a WATV to maintain concurrent registrations for the vehicle for use as a WATV, and for use as a tracked all-terrain vehicle. When registering as a WATV, the WATV registration laws apply, including applicable fees. When registering as a tracked all-terrain vehicle, the snowmobile registration laws apply, including applicable fees.

The Department of Licensing must establish a declaration for submission by the WATV owner when initially applying for a snowmobile registration, which states the WATV complies with all applicable federal or state vehicle safety standards while in use as a WATV upon public highways.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.