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Representative Mark A. Neuman

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HOUSE BILL 23

"An Act relating to registration fees for snowmobiles and off-highway vehicles"

Passage of House Bill 23 would authorize a change to registration fees for snowmobiles from the current biennial (two year) fee of \$10 to \$20, a four-year registration fee from \$20 to \$40, and a six-year registration fee of \$50.

There has not been an increase since the original enactment of snowmobile registration fees in 1998's HB 231, which establishes AS 28.39, Snowmobile (sic) registration and 28.39.020(a) authorizes the Department of Administration to register snowmobiles, and to collect the fees laid out in 28.10.421.

The snowmobile registration legislation was enacted to generate up to \$250,000 a year for the Snowmobile Trail Development Program, which is managed by the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, in coordination with the seven-member Snowmobile Trails Advisory Council (Snow TRAC).

The measure has broad support among snowmobile users and user groups who understand these funds go directly to fund development and maintenance of snowmobile trails, provide safety and educational programs, as well as pay the DPOR administrative costs.

The SnowTRAC grant program currently provides for maintenance and safety enhancements to over 1,100 miles of snowmobile trails.

The program is self-funded and fully-managed by users who pay the registration fees, requiring minimal administrative support from DPOR. Administrative expenses are paid from collected snowmobile registration fees.

The SnowTRAC council approved a resolution on February 22, 2019 supporting of the provisions of HB 23, saying Alaska's snowmobile trails program is revenue-neutral, self-funded, and user based. The council also said demands for trail maintenance, development, and safety enhancements continue to grow and that support for winter trails brings increased business and recreational opportunities across the state.

HB 23 helps promote snowmobile recreation and enjoys support from those who are willing to pay for a service they need and enjoy. It is an excellent example of user pay/user benefit.

Representative Mark Neuman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Neuman".