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Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY WIGGINS AND YOUNG

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HOUSE BILL NO. 469

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

A BILL

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the registration, operation, and
general regulation of snow vehicles."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

* Section 1. AS 05 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

CHAPTER 30. SNOW VEHICLES.

ARTICLE 1. REGISTRATION.

Sec. 05.30.010. UNLAWFUL TO OPERATE UNREGISTERED VEHICLE. Except
for operation on the owner's private property, no person may operate a
snow vehicle which has not been registered with the Department of
Revenue as provided in this chapter.

Sec. 05.30.020. ANNUAL REGISTRATION AND REGISTRATION FEE. A regis-
tration is valid for one year commencing July 1, of each year. The an-
nual registration fee is \$5, which shall be paid into the general fund.

Sec. 05.30.030. EXEMPTION FROM REGISTRATION FEE. Snow vehicles
owned by the federal or state government or a political subdivision of
the federal or state government shall be registered but are not required
to pay a registration fee.

Sec. 05.30.040. REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE AND DECALS. (a) Upon
registration of a snow vehicle, the registrant shall be issued a regis-
tration certificate and two numbered decals containing the registration
number of the vehicle. Once a snow vehicle has been issued a number, it
shall retain that number until the vehicle is destroyed, abandoned or
permanently removed from the state.

(b) Numbered registration decals shall be displayed on each side

1 of the cowling of a snow vehicle.

2 Sec. 05.30.050. TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP. When ownership of a snow
3 vehicle is transferred, the registration certificate shall be signed
4 by the seller and show the name and address of the buyer, and shall
5 be returned by the seller to the Department of Revenue within 10
6 days of the date of the sale. The buyer shall apply for a registration
7 certificate within 10 days of the sale and shall set out the original
8 registration number in the application.

9 Sec. 05.30.060. DEALER'S LICENSE. A person who is in the
10 business of selling snow vehicles in the state shall register with the
11 Department of Revenue as a dealer and secure a dealer's license. A
12 licensee under this section is authorized to demonstrate snow vehicles
13 for the purpose of sale only. The vehicles under demonstration are
14 not required to be individually registered, but the dealer's license
15 number shall be displayed on each vehicle.

16 ARTICLE 2. RESTRICTIONS ON OPERATION.

17 Sec. 05.30.080. USE ON PUBLIC HIGHWAY. (a) No person may operate
18 a snow vehicle upon a controlled access highway or within its right-of-
19 way limits.

20 (b) No person may operate a snow vehicle upon the main travelled
21 portion or shoulder of a public highway, with the following exceptions:

22 (1) Properly registered snow vehicles may cross as directly
23 as possible public highways, except controlled access highways, provided
24 the crossing can be made with safety and does not interfere with free
25 movement of vehicular traffic on the highway. Snow vehicles shall
26 yield right-of-way to vehicular traffic before crossing a public highway.

27 (2) Whenever it is impracticable to gain access to an area
28 adjacent to a public highway where a snow vehicle is to be operated, the
29 snow vehicle may be operated adjacent and parallel to the public highway

1 for the purpose of gaining access to the area of operation. This
2 subsection applies only to the operation of a snow vehicle from the
3 point where it is unloaded from a motorised conveyance to the area
4 where the snow vehicle is to be operated, or from the area where
5 operated to a motorised conveyance, where the loading or unloading
6 cannot be effected in the immediate vicinity of the area of operation
7 without causing a hazard to vehicular traffic on the public highway.
8 The loading or unloading shall be accomplished at the nearest
9 possible point to the area of operation.

10 (3) A snow vehicle may operate on that portion of a public
11 highway that is not maintained or utilized for the operation of con-
12 ventional motor vehicles.

13 (4) Unless there are guards present, no person under the
14 age of 14 years may operate a snow vehicle when crossing a public
15 highway which is maintained for the travel of conventional motor
16 vehicles.

17 Sec. 05.30.090. HEAD AND TAIL LAMPS. A snow vehicle crossing or
18 driving along a right-of-way during the hours of darkness shall display
19 a lighted head lamp and tail lamp.

20 Sec. 05.30.100. RECKLESS OPERATION UNLAWFUL. It is unlawful for
21 a person to operate a snow vehicle in a reckless manner or in a manner
22 so as to endanger persons or property.

23 Sec. 05.30.110. DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED UNLAWFUL. It is unlaw-
24 ful to operate a snow vehicle while intoxicated or under the influence
25 of intoxicating liquor.

26 Sec. 05.30.120. REASONABLE SPEED. A snow vehicle shall be
27 operated at a reasonable and prudent speed according to the existing
28 conditions.

29 Sec. 05.30.130. UNREASONABLE NOISE UNLAWFUL. No person may

1 operate a snow vehicle without an adequate muffler, or in such a
2 manner as to cause an unreasonable amount of noise.

3 Sec. 05.30.140. USE ON ANOTHER'S PROPERTY. A person operating a
4 snow vehicle upon the land of another shall stop and identify himself
5 upon the request of the land owner or his authorized representative.
6 Nothing in this section or in this chapter is to be construed as
7 giving license or permission to cross or go on the property of another.

8 Sec. 05.30.150. PURSUIT OF GAME UNLAWFUL. No person may drive
9 or pursue game animals with a snow vehicle.

10 Sec. 05.30.160. EQUIPMENT REQUIRED. A snow vehicle is required
11 to contain the following equipment:

12 (1) brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop
13 and to hold the vehicle under any conditions of operation;

14 (2) at least one head lamp so aimed and of sufficient in-
15 tensity to reveal persons and objects at a distance of at least 100
16 feet ahead during hours of darkness under normal atmospheric condi-
17 tions;

18 (3) a throttle which, when released by the hand, will return
19 the engine speed to idle.

20 ARTICLE 3. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

21 Sec. 05.30.170. REPORTING OF ACCIDENTS. The operator of a snow
22 vehicle involved in an accident resulting in injury to, or death of
23 a person, or property damage to the estimated amount of \$100 or more
24 shall immediately, by the quickest means of communication, give notice
25 of the accident to the nearest state trooper or city police officer.

26 Sec. 05.30.180. REGULATIONS. The commissioner of public safety
27 shall promulgate regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of
28 this chapter.

29 Sec. 05.30.190. PENALTY. A person who violates a provision of

1 this chapter or a regulation promulgated under this chapter is guilty
2 of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, is punishable by a fine of not
3 less than \$10 nor more than \$25 for each offense.

4 Sec. 05.30.200. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter

5 (1) "cowling" means the forward or rear portion of a snow
6 vehicle surrounding the motor and clutch assembly;

7 (2) "snow vehicle" means a vehicle propelled by mechanical
8 power, supported in part by skis, belts, cleats, or low pressure tires,
9 and primarily designed to travel over ice or snow.
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