

HB

231

HFIN

FILE

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)

Date Referred to Committee: February 6, 1998

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 2/23/98

The FINANCE Committee considered:

HB 231

HOUSE BILL NO. 231

REGULATION OF SNOWMOBILES

"An Act relating to regulation of snowmobiles."

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute CS HB 231 (Fin) the same title a new title

additional referral to _____ Committee
 attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: _____ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept) _____ APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

fiscal note(s) _____ fiscal note(s) DOR 2/6/98

zero fiscal note(s) _____ zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS		DP	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Gene Theriault</i>	Theriault			X	
<i>Mark Hanley</i>	Hanley			X	
<i>Alton Mulder</i>	Mulder			X	
<i>Terry Martin</i>	Martin		X		
<i>Neil Kohring</i>	Kohring				X
<i>John Davis</i>	Davis	X			
<i>Greg Gussard</i>	Gussard	X			
<i>Wendell Moses</i>	Moses	X			
<i>John Davis</i>	DAVIS			X	
<i>Bob Foster</i>	Foster		X		

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE

Gene Theriault *Mark Hanley*
 co-chair

FISCAL NOTE

No: 1

STATE OF ALASKA
1998 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO: Bill Version: CSHB 231 (JUD)
 (H) Publish Date: 2/6/98

Revision Date: 2/2/98 Dept. Affected: Administration
 Title: "An Act relating to the regulation of
Snowmachines..." BRU: Motor Vehicles
 Sponsor: Representative Masek Component: Administration
 Requestor: H. JUD COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 2149

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars) (inflation not included)

OPERATING	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04
PERSONAL SERVICES	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0
TRAVEL	5.0	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
CONTRACTUAL	18.0	3.0	7.7	7.7	10.9	10.9
SUPPLIES	5	5	5	5	5	5
EQUIPMENT	10.0					
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	76.5	49.0	53.7	53.7	56.9	56.9

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES (1005)						
Revenue Code	100.0	100.0	200.0	200.0	300.0	300.0

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts	76.5	49.0	53.7	53.7	56.9	56.9
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL						

Estimate of current year (FY 98) impact: \$ _____

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	1	1	1	1	1	1
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

SEE ATTACHED

Prepared By: Juanita M. Hensley Phone: 465-5648
 Division: Motor Vehicles Date: 2/3/98
 Approved by Commissioner: Mark Boyer Date: 2/5/98
 Agency: Department of Administration

PREPARER TO PROVIDE ALL DISTRIBUTION COPIES TO GOVERNOR'S LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

For further distribution information call the Governor's Legislative Office

COMMITTEE COPY

STATE OF ALASKA
1998 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO: CSHB 231(JUD)

Revision Date: 02/3/98

Dept. Affected: Administration

ANALYSIS CONTINUED:

This bill moves the registration requirement for snowmachines from Title 5 to Title 28 and requires dealers to have purchases complete applications prior to leaving the dealership with the snowmachine. The bill also authorizes the dealers to act as agents for DMV and issue the registrations and decals for snowmachines.

Snowmachines are currently required to be registered if they are operated on public land. There are 14,642 snowmachines registered but the estimates from dealers and snowmachine organizations indicate there are 70,000 snowmachines in the state. Not all of these machines will be registered under this bill even if the law requires it and the primary reason is a lack of effective enforcement.

For the purpose of this fiscal note the following projection will be used:

FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04
10,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	30,000

The increase of 10,000 registrations every two years is based on the number of machines estimated to be registered a year and those that must renew the registration on a biennial basis. Mail-in renewal of registrations will increase 10,000 to 20,000 a year. A Motor Vehicle Customer Service Representative III will be required to manage the contracts negotiated with the snowmobile dealers; train the dealer personnel, audit the program and maintain the security of the forms and decals.

COST SUMMARY FY 99

PERSONAL SERVICES
 1 PFT MVCSR III, Rage 14 \$43.0

TRAVEL to train and audit dealer work \$ 5.0

CONTRACTUAL
 Forms and tabs \$3.0
 Computer Programming \$15.0

EQUIPMENT
 1 computer workstation --one time cost \$10.0
 (this includes PC, desk, chair, file cabinet)

TOTAL **\$76.5**

REVENUE

It is estimated 10,000 registrations at \$10 for the biennial period. Assuming even distribution with 10,000 in each year after the startup, there will be an increase of revenue from registration fees.

FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04
\$100.0	\$100.0	\$200.0	\$200.0	\$300.0	\$300.0

*A dopted
2/23/98*

0-LS0501NL
Ford
2/23/98

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 231(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE MASEK

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to regulation of snowmobiles."**

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

3 *** Section 1.** AS 28 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

4 **Chapter 39. Snowmobiles.**

5 **Sec. 28.39.010. Snowmobile registration.** Except as provided in this section,
6 a person may not operate a snowmobile within the state unless the snowmobile has
7 been registered and numbered as required by this chapter. Registration under this
8 section is not required for a snowmobile owned by the United States.

9 **Sec. 28.39.020. Authority of department; registration agents; registration**
10 **applications.** (a) The department is authorized to assign identification numbers and
11 register snowmobiles.

12 (b) The department shall authorize agents, including snowmobile dealers, to
13 register snowmobiles. The department may authorize a snowmobile dealer authorized
14 as an agent for snowmobile registration to issue temporary and permanent registrations,
15 and to renew registrations.

1 (c) A snowmobile dealer shall require a purchaser of a new or used
2 snowmobile sold at retail to complete a registration application and pay the registration
3 fee before the snowmobile leaves the dealer's premises unless the snowmobile is
4 exempt from registration or a registration fee under this chapter.

5 (d) In a manner set out in this chapter and as may be prescribed by the
6 department, an authorized agent shall accept a registration application and registration
7 fee, issue a registration, and forward the application and registration fee to the
8 department.

9 (e) The original and each renewal registration fee for a snowmobile is as
10 provided under AS 28.10.421.

11 **Sec. 28.39.030. Proof of ownership for registration purposes.** The
12 department shall require proof of ownership of the snowmobile before registering a
13 snowmobile under this chapter.

14 **Sec. 28.39.040. Issuance of a certificate of registration and decals;
15 inspection of registration; expiration of registration.** (a) Upon receipt of a
16 completed application for registration of a snowmobile, the department shall record the
17 registration of the snowmobile under a number assigned to the snowmobile by the
18 department. A number assigned to a snowmobile at the time of the original
19 registration must remain with the snowmobile until the snowmobile is destroyed,
20 abandoned, or permanently removed from the state or until the registration number is
21 changed or terminated by the department.

22 (b) The department shall issue a registration without the payment of a fee if
23 the snowmobile is owned by a state agency, a political subdivision of the state, or
24 another state. The department may, upon request, issue a registration without the
25 payment of a fee if the snowmobile is owned by the United States.

26 (c) The department shall, upon assignment of a registration number, issue and
27 deliver to the owner a certificate of registration in a form prescribed by the
28 department. A certificate of registration is not valid unless it is signed by the person
29 who signed the application for registration.

30 (d) At the issuance of the original certificate of registration and upon biennial
31 renewal, the department shall issue to the registrant a validation decal indicating the

1 validity of the current registration and the expiration date. A validation decal must be
2 affixed to the snowmobile in the manner prescribed by the department. A snowmobile
3 is not validly registered under this chapter unless a validation decal and current
4 registration have been issued as required by this section.

5 (e) A snowmobile shall display the registration number assigned to it at all
6 times in the manner prescribed by the department.

7 (f) While operating a snowmobile that is required to be registered under this
8 chapter, a person shall have in possession or carry in the snowmobile a valid
9 registration. Upon demand by a peace officer authorized to enforce this chapter, a
10 person operating a snowmobile shall produce for inspection the certificate of
11 registration for the snowmobile and furnish to the peace officer any information
12 necessary for the identification of the snowmobile and its owner.

13 (g) A snowmobile owner holding a certificate of registration shall notify the
14 department in writing of a change of residence within 15 days after the change occurs.

15 (h) A snowmobile registration expires at the end of the second season for
16 which it is issued. An application for renewal of registration for the succeeding years
17 must be made at a time and in a form prescribed by the department.

18 (i) The department may issue a replacement certificate of registration if the
19 owner demonstrates to the department that the original certificate has been lost,
20 mutilated, or destroyed.

21 **Sec. 28.39.050. Termination of ownership; used snowmobiles held for**
22 **resale; termination of use.** (a) If there is a change of ownership of a snowmobile,
23 the seller and buyer shall fill out the transfer of ownership section of the registration,
24 and the seller shall sign over the registration to the new owner. The seller shall
25 promptly submit the transfer of ownership section to the department, and the
26 department shall issue a new certificate of registration to the new owner.

27 (b) This chapter does not require a snowmobile dealer to renew the registration
28 of a used snowmobile held solely for purposes of resale until the snowmobile is resold.

29 (c) An owner of a snowmobile registered under this chapter shall notify the
30 department in writing of the termination of use, destruction, or permanent removal of
31 the snowmobile from the state within 15 days after the termination of use, destruction,

1 or removal.

2 **Sec. 28.39.060. Regulations authorized.** The commissioner shall adopt
3 regulations governing the registration of snowmobiles and display of registration
4 numbers on snowmobiles as may be necessary to carry out this chapter.

5 **Sec. 28.39.250. Definitions.** In this chapter,

6 (1) "commissioner" means the commissioner of administration;

7 (2) "dealer" means a person engaged in the business of selling
8 snowmobiles predominantly for purposes other than resale;

9 (3) "department" means the Department of Administration;

10 (4) "operate" means to ride in or on and control the operation of a
11 snowmobile;

12 (5) "operator" means a person who operates or is in actual physical
13 control of a snowmobile;

14 (6) "owner" means a person, other than a lienholder, having title to a
15 snowmobile and who is entitled to the use or possession of the snowmobile;

16 (7) "possession" means physical custody of a snowmobile by an owner
17 of a snowmobile or by an owner of a motor vehicle or trailer on or in which a
18 snowmobile is placed for the purpose of transport;

19 (8) "retail" means the sale of a snowmobile for any purpose other than
20 resale;

21 (9) "season" means one calendar year beginning October 1 and ending
22 September 30;

23 (10) "snowmobile" means a self-propelled vehicle primarily designed
24 or altered for travel on snow or ice when supported in part by skis, belts, or cleats;
25 "snowmobile" does not include machinery used strictly for the grooming of
26 snowmobile trails or ski slopes.

27 * Sec. 2. AS 05.30 is repealed.

Committees
Military & Veteran Affairs
Chair
House Resources
Vice-Chair
House Transportation
Vice-Chair
Legislative Council



During Session, Jan - May
State Capitol
Juneau, AK, 99801-1182
(907) 465-2679
Fax: (907) 465-4822
t800 505-2678

During Interim, June - Dec
600 F. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654
(907) 376-2679
Fax: (907) 376-6180

Representative Beverly Masek

Eddie Grassler

Sponsor Statement HB 231

HB 231 was the result of work done by the Alaska State Snowmobile Association and the Division of Parks. I view this legislation as an important tool in promoting a genuinely Alaskan activity, as well as creating greater opportunities for winter recreation in many areas of the State.

There has been a statutory requirement for registering snowmobiles since 1968; however few Alaskans participated in registration of their snowmobiles. This is primarily due to the problems that exist in the registration process. Currently when somebody purchase a new snowmobile they have to take the title to the Division of Motor Vehicles and wait in line to get the five dollar registration. Also, since the Division has not been able to implement a mail in system for registration renewal, individuals have to repeat that performance every year.

By allowing dealers to handle registrations at time of purchase, HB 231 will create a better process for people to comply with current statutes. This legislation will also allow dealers and other agents to handle renewal of registrations.

It is important to snowmobile enthusiasts to have a good system in place for the purpose of providing a good accounting of the number of machines in Alaska. This information is an integral part of the formula for acquiring trail moneys that are available from the National Trails Fund. The National Trails Fund was established to provid needed funding for trail construction, trail heads, trail signing, and grooming equipment. The importance of being able to acquire funds through this system cannot be stressed enough. The establishment and maintenance of good trail systems throughout Alaska will provide Alaskans a place to ride, and more importantly provide us with an opportunity to expand winter recreation and tourism.

I believe HB 231 is a good first step toward developing an important facet of winter tourism. It will quite likely need input and work from the public and the Legislature. I look forward to developing a good system to provide for snowmobile registration and the resultant benefits to the state's economy and am hopeful HB 231 will receive the timely support of this Legislature.



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Beverly Masek

Chair, Military & Veterans Affairs

Vice Chair, Transportation

Vice Chair, Resources

Legislative Council

During Interim:

600 East Railroad Avenue
Wasilla, AK 99654
907-376-2679
907-376-6180 (fax)

During Session:

State Capitol
Juneau, Ak. 99801-1182
(907) 465-2679
(907) 465-4822 FAX
(800) 505-2678

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rep. Gene Therriault
FROM: Eddie Grasser, Staff
RE: HB 231 (Snowmobile Point of Sale Registration)
DATE: Jan. 16, 1998

Representative Masek asked that I address a couple of concerns you may have on HB 231 pertaining to support in the Fairbanks area and dealing with registration of machines in current ownership.

According to the information I have been provided by the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation, there are over fifty businesses or associations statewide representing a large number of Alaskans who support HB 231. The Alaska Snowmobile Representatives Alliance and the Alaska State Snowmobile Association both support this legislation and both have member businesses or associate clubs in Fairbanks. Also on the list provided to me by Ted Carlson while he was in Juneau a couple of weeks ago with the Alaska Municipal League, it notes that the major manufacturers and their dealers are in support this would include Compeau's (Ski-Doo), Persinger's Marine, Northern Power Sports (Arctic Cat), and the Alaska Fun Center (Yamaha).

There at least two snowmobile clubs in the Fairbanks area in full support of HB 231. They are the Fairbanks Snow Travelers and the Happy Wanderers.

Also, at the annual AOC Legislative workshop all of the Fairbanks area affiliates in attendance voted to support the point of sale registration when the bill was presented for consideration.

The attendees from Fairbanks present were the Tanana Valley Sportsmen, the Chitina Dipnetters, and the Tanana Valley Rifle and Pistol club.

As to the question about people who have not registered their machines, current law which has been in existence for 30 years requires registration. Failure to do so is a misdemeanor; however only state parks has been enforcing this statute. From the information we have there is one major problem with registration that has caused this situation. Up until now DMV did not mail out renewal notices for snowmobile registration. That created a situation where most people had to remember to do it on their own, and then they had to go to DMV and stand in line. Both situations created a disincentive.

By having a point of sale registration in place, and with the new capabilities at DMV most machines should be registered within five to six years. That does not mean there won't be individuals out there who continue to ignore the law.

If you have any other questions, we would be happy to address those.



From the desk of the President:

Mr. Carlson,

It has come to my attention that you are in Juneau this week in order to help with the initialization of the legislation concerning Point of Sale Registration of snowmobiles in Alaska.

As the elected representative of thousands of snowmobilers statewide, I would like to offer our wholehearted support of this legislation and extend to you any and all means of assistance at our disposal. It is time that the organized sportspersons of Alaska spoke in unison on a critical crossroad of our recreational choice.

Any information that we can provide that has bearing on this subject will be made readily available to yourself or any other interested persons upon request. The Anchorage Snowmobile Club can be reached at (907) 566-0272. The Alaska State Snowmobile Association can be reached at (907) 566-0212.

**Kevin E. Hite
kevin_hite@fmc.com**

FAX

To: Ted Carlson
Of: Municipal League
Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.
Date: January 27, 1998

The following are the supporters thus far of the statewide trail system. They know in order to accomplish the establishment of a statewide trail system that Point of sale legislation is the critical funding component for success. As the future unfolds, it also may become necessary to implement a user pay system as well. All other snowbelt states with organized snowmobile trail systems have implemented both. Alaska is the last state that does not have mandatory point of sale registration for recreational vehicles, specifically snowmobiles. Without accurate registration or recorded snowmobile sales numbers Alaska loses out on hundreds of thousands of dollars every year in federal funds for trail development and maintenance. We do know there were 15817 new snowmobiles sold just in the last two winters and yet the most accurate data the Dept. Of Motor Vehicles can supply is that there are approximately only 11000 registered machines in the state. This is aggregate over the course of time since registration is strictly voluntary although state law requires registration. Point of Sale registration is the only solution to this mounting problem. Also, point of sale may help to alleviate another serious problem of snowmobile theft which is running rampant across Alaska. This legislation is a strong deterrent and protects dealers from servicing and selling used stolen snowmobiles. The most accurate estimate comes from Alaska State Parks indicating there may be as many as 70,000 unregistered snowmobiles in Alaska. The following is a partial list of supporters and does not reflect the growing list of support from private enterprise through out the state.

Alaska Snowmobile Representatives Alliance (ASRA) — *includes members in FBKS*
 Alaska State Snowmobile Association (ASSA) — " " " "
 Anchorage Snowmobile Club (ASC)
 Anchorage Economic Development Corporation (AEDC)
 Mayor Rick Mystrom, Municipality of Anchorage
 Mayor Sarah Palin, City of Wasilla
 State of Alaska, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
 International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA)
 Bombardier Motor Corporation (Includes 16 statewide dealers)
 Polaris Industries Inc. (Includes 62 statewide dealers)
 Yamaha Motor Corporation (Includes 23 statewide dealers)
 Artic Recreational Distributors Inc. (Includes 40 statewide dealers)
 Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic /
 Muldoon Community Council
 Eagle River Community Council

- Eagle River Chamber of Commerce
- Wasilla Chamber of Commerce
- Big Lake Chamber of Commerce
- Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau (ACVB)
- Alaska Visitors Association (AVA)
- Governor Tony Knowles, State of Alaska
- Anchorage Trails and Greenways Coalition (ATCG)
- Alyeska Resort
- Anchorage Hilton Hotel
- Regal Alaskan Hotel
- Chilkoot Charlies
- Days Inn Anchorage
- Klondike Mikes Adventures
- Alaska Sales and Service
- Anchorage Hotel/Rumrunners Bar & Grill
- Bovey Trophies
- Alaska Regional Hospital
- E&A Enterprises
- Golden North Van Lines
- Grizzley's Inc.
- Linford of Alaska
- Almost Home Accomodations
- Anchorage Daily News
- Best Western Barratt Inn
- Comfort Inn
- Food Services of America
- Holland America
- MACtel Inc
- Mat-Su Resort
- Sheraton Anchorage Hotel
- Windy Creek
- National Bank of Alaska
- Ship Creek Hotel
- The Rusty Harpoon
- PIP Printing
- Thrifty Car Rental of Alaska
- Westmark Anchorage Hotel
- Mat-Su Motor Musers
- Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers
- Alaska Motor Musers

Ted, if you need anything further please do not hesitate to call. While in Juneau see if you can find out where the registration money over the years has gone and why motorized recreational users have never recieved any benefits from all the fuel taxes they have paid.

Thanks,
Tim

Bozic



DENALI STATE BANK

"Your Community Bank"

Member FDIC

February 11, 1998

Representative Beverly Masek
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: House Bill 231

Dear Representative Theriault,

I am writing in support of point of sale registration for snowmobiles. As a major area lender, I find that my customers do not have the necessary time to spend in a Department of Motor Vehicles line to register their snowmachines.

Registration will deter thefts and assist in the recovery of stolen machines by providing easily visible registration numbers. It will also identify snowmachiners' economic impact and their contribution to the gas tax. Trail development should follow with an appropriate allocation of those tax dollars. Registration has been a law for nearly thirty years and registration (user) fees should be utilized for the user group they are extracted from. I would appreciate your support from both a business and personal perspective, as I am also an avid snowmachine user.

Sincerely,

Brent LeValley
Assistant Vice President

MAIN BRANCH
P.O. BOX 74568
119 N. CUSHMAN
FAIRBANKS, AK 99707
(907) 456-1400
FAX (907) 458-4240

GOLDEN HEART BRANCH
P.O. BOX 74568
1989 AIRPORT WAY
FAIRBANKS, AK 99707
(907) 458-4260
FAX (907) 458-4270

TOK BRANCH
P.O. BOX 579
MILE 1314 ALASKA HWY
TOK, AK 99780
(907) 863-2265
FAX (907) 863-2268



ANCHORAGE
Convention &
Visitors Bureau

April 30, 1997

The Honorable Beverly Masek
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capital
Juneau AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Masek:

The Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau (ACVB) representing more than 1,300 business members remains in support of HB 231. We view this legislation as an important tool in promoting a genuinely Alaskan activity, as well as creating greater opportunities for winter recreation in many areas of the state.

There has been a statutory requirement for registering snowmobiles since 1968; however few Alaskans participated in registration of their snowmobiles. This is primarily due to the problems that exist in the registration process. Currently when somebody purchases a new snowmobile, they have to take the title to the Division of Motor Vehicles and wait in line to get the five dollar registration. Also, since the Division has not been able to implement a mail-in system for registration renewal, individuals have to repeat that performance every year.

By allowing dealers to handle registrations at time of purchase, HB 231 will create a better process for people to comply with current statutes. This legislation will also allow dealers and other agents to handle renewal of registrations.

It is important to snowmobile enthusiasts to have a good system in place for the purpose of providing a good accounting of the number of machines in Alaska. This information is an integral part of the formula for acquiring trail moneys that are available from the National Trails Fund. The National Trails Fund was established to provide needed funding for trail construction, trail heads, trail signing, and grooming equipment. The importance of being able to acquire funds through this system cannot be stressed enough. The establishment and maintenance of good trail systems throughout Alaska will provide Alaskans a place to ride, and more importantly provide us with an opportunity to expand winter recreation and tourism.

524 W. South Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska
99501-2212

907-276-4113
Fax 907-276-5559
Email: acvb@alaska.net

Page 2

Representative Beverly Masek
April 30, 1997

We believe HB 231 is a good first step toward developing an important facet of winter tourism. It will quite likely need input and work from the public and the Legislature. I look forward to developing a good system to provide for snowmobile registration and the resultant benefits to the state's economy and am hopeful HB 231 will receive the timely support of this Legislature.

Sincerely,



Bill Elander
President & CEO

February 11, 1998

Alaska State Capitol
Juneau AK 99801

Dear Representative Therriault, Chair, House Finance Committee

I would like you to know that I fully support HB 231 and that many of the snowmobilers I meet with across the state fully support it. I currently represent trail users as a member of the following organizations. Alaska State Parks Citizens Advisory Board, Fairbanks Snow Travelers Inc., Fairbanks North Star Borough Trails Advisory Commission, past member of the Governors TRAAK CAB and I am currently working on two winter trail projects for Alaska State Parks. For the past ten years I have studied the winter trail programs of many snowbelt states and focused this attention on what parts of their programs were successful and what programs were less successful. This research has taught me several things but one of the most important is that all successful snowmobile programs started with registration fees and gas tax funds being spent on the people that pay them. HB 231 is a great start for Alaska and I hope we can see past the usual complaints and view the long range potential for this the first step in statewide snowmobile trail program development.

What follows are a few thoughts on the positive attributes of HB 231. The current statute does not provide for the same conveniences of initial registration and renewal that currently apply to my snowmobile trailer. This new statute will keep me from taking time off work to wait in lines at DMV and that will make me very happy.

As for the registration fee, I think the current level of \$5.00 is more than adequate to fund the fiscal note associated with point of sale requirements. If however, funds are left over after processing I would encourage the legislature to make those funds available to an agency for snowmobile trail programming. As a matter of fact most snowmobilers I know would gladly pay \$40.00 every two years just to have groomed trails with good signing. Any funding in support of snowmobiling will help preserve existing access and promote additional access which according to the recent SCORP survey is exactly what snowmobilers wanted.

Point of sale registration will also help all interested parties quantify the numbers of snowmobiles used statewide which in turn enhances our understanding of the extent of snowmobiling's social and economic impacts. Also, by quantifying the number of snowmobiles we begin to address the formula for determining snowmobiling's gas tax contribution. To determine the value of this tax account two issues require defining. These are the number of snowmobiles that gas is being bought for and the number of gallons being bought. For our immediate purpose current registration stands at approximately 13,000. Snowmobile sales figures for the 1995-1996 and 1996-1997 seasons are 15,700 unit sold and data is probably available for the three seasons prior to

that. In other words data is available to show that approximately 35,000 snowmobiles were sold in this state over the past five seasons and I'm confident this is conservative.

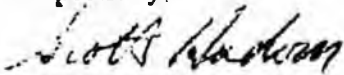
The second question is how much fuel are snowmobilers using. Over the years states publish information on user characteristics and I've noticed that east and west coast riders each travel about 1100 miles per year. I have done some informal surveys and found that Alaskans also ride on the average 1100 mile per year. The average gas mileage on today's machines is probably 11 mpg. This shows that the average Alaskan snowmobiler purchases 100 gallons of gas per season of which \$8.00 goes for a tax. If 35,000 snowmobilers are contributing \$8.00 each then the general fund receives \$280,000 each year from this user group. The boater and aircraft owners are being taxed similarly but I am not aware if they are benefiting from the tax. Let me know if you need some actual figures from other states or I can at least supply you with contact in other states to verify their program procedures. This tax should be used to develop a snowmobile program that maintains trails and promotes snowmobile safety education and conservation awareness.

In addition to removing the hassle of waiting in line and the benefits of quantifying the social and economic impacts of snowmobiling this legislation will also act as a theft deterrent. Right now no method of tracking a machine exists and HB 231 will require notification of transfer of ownership which will keep the Department of Public Safety's records updated with current owner names.

This is important legislation to the future of snowmobiling and I respectfully request your committee's support in assuring that the future remains a bright one. If you are interested in lighting the way with a 280,000 candle power headlight I am confident you would garner considerable interest and support from the paying customers. The gas tax is an entirely different issue but no better time than the present to be proactive toward snowmobiling.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Scott Heidorn
PO Box 757380
Fairbanks AK 99775-7380
474-5558

cc Representative Beverly Masek



Fairbanks Area Alaska State Parks Citizen Advisory Board

3700 Airport Way Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4613 (907) 451-2695

February 12, 1998

Representative Gene Therriault
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Therriault,

The Fairbanks Area State Parks Citizens Advisory Board fully supports House Bill 231, the point of sale snowmobile registration legislation. The bill will streamline the registration process for snowmobiling and may eventually provide better trails for a variety of trail users.

Trail use is an important concern of the Citizen Advisory Board. The trail systems within our park units and our community need to be improved to better serve the recreating public. More and better trails lead to more trail use. More trail use contributes to healthier communities – physically, mentally, economically, and environmentally.

We applaud your efforts to provide point of sale registration and mail-out renewals. Additionally, House Bill 231 will give public land managers and local government a means to better quantify the numbers of snowmobilers, which should result in improved trail program development. We would like to see any additional funds collected through this legislation be applied to develop and manage a shared-use trail program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jack L. Jefferies
Chair

cc: Representative Beverly Masek

Feb. 18, 1998

Representative Beverly Masek

Dear Beverly,

I would like to take this opportunity to support HB 231, snowmobile registration. We further would like to see the revenues collected put into an account to be dedicated to improving trails, education and access for snowmobilers.

As a dealer, this will put an additional workload on us, however we feel strongly that this is a step in the right direction to help control theft, provide for better tracking of machines and eventually provide funds for improvement of the sport.

Thank you for your support of this bill

Sincerely,



Bill O'Hara
Bill's Car House
Big Lake, AK



ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL

211 4th St. #302A

Juneau, AK. 99801

(907) 463-3830

Feb. 1, 1998

The Honorable Joe Green, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Ak. 99801

Dear Representative Green:

The Alaska Outdoor Council and its member organizations strongly support SB 231 and would appreciate your assistance in moving this piece of legislation this session.

HB 231 "An act relating to the registration of snowmobiles" was discussed at our legislative workshop held in Anchorage this past November. At that time, the many delegates from around Alaska voted unanimously to endorse this legislation. As you may be aware, the AOC is an umbrella organization of outdoor user groups covering a broad spectrum of uses.

Currently there are four snowmobile clubs affiliated with the AOC and this is their number one priority. Also, trails and access is one of the AOC's primary areas of concern. We would like to thank you for your past support of our issues and hope you will once again give us your assistance on this important piece of legislation. If there is something further we can do to assist you in this effort, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Rod Arno
President

cc: Rep. Beverly Masek
Senator Drue Pearce



House Finance Committee

DATE: February 17, 78

PLACE: Capitol (517)

SUBJECT OF MEETING:
HB 231
HB 245

NAME	REPRESENTING	BUSINESS/PERSONAL MAILING ADDRESS	ZIP	(H) PHONE	(W) PHONE	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY?		WHAT SUBJECT/ WHICH BILL?
Jim Stratton	State Parks	3621 C St. Anch. Anch.	99503		268-8700	Y	<input checked="" type="radio"/> N	HB 231
A. Casper	Law	Room 717 Ct Bldg	99511		465-3424	Y	<input type="radio"/> N	HB 245
						Y	<input type="radio"/> N	
						Y	<input type="radio"/> N	
						Y	<input type="radio"/> N	
						Y	<input type="radio"/> N	
						Y	<input type="radio"/> N	
						Y	<input type="radio"/> N	
						Y	<input type="radio"/> N	
						Y	<input type="radio"/> N	
						Y	<input type="radio"/> N	