

Submitter: MARK WHITTIER
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB3248

Since there is no "minimum age" to operate an ATV in Oregon, HB 3248 would open up the use of County roads to minors with no restrictions (other than an ATV Instructional Permit Card). This would present obvious safety hazards to people using County roads for cycling, or others just using their own licensed vehicles to transit on County roads. Many newer ATV's are heavy pieces of equipment, and the potential for serious injury to others is a legitimate concern.

Minors should definitely *not* be allowed to operate ATVs on County roads, and even adults who operate a non-licensed ATV on County roads, such as during hunting season, are often not respectful of the adjacent private property of land owners, and are often reckless and drive too fast.

Since there is already insufficient law enforcement patrol on State and County roads to monitor and issue citations to violators, there would be virtually NO law enforcement presence on the many thousands of miles of County roads in Oregon. This is primarily a safety issue with no reasonable means to police and safeguard the public from ATV misuse.

HB 3248 has no meaningful benefits for the overwhelming majority of Oregon tax-paying citizens, and would create more conflicts, injuries and deaths for law enforcement to deal with.

Perhaps there should be a separate HB for people who operate ranches and farmland and regularly use ATV's to transit on State or County roads for the legitimate purpose of their daily ranch/farm work.