

**SB 1565 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Rules**

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**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan

**Meeting Dates:** 2/27, 3/3

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure increases two-year snowmobile registration fees from \$10 to \$30. It takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

**FISCAL:** *Fiscal impact statement issued on measure*

**REVENUE:** *Revenue impact statement issued on measure*

**SENATE FLOOR VOTE:** 20-7

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Fee no longer covers administrative costs of the program
- Question of whether the fee should be indexed to inflation

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Snowmobiles are defined in ORS 821.490 as a self-propelled vehicle capable of traveling over snow and ice, which uses an endless belt tread or cleats as means of propulsion, and which is steered, wholly or in part, by skis or sled-type runners. They typically feature straddle seating and handlebar steering similar to motorcycles or Class I all-terrain vehicles. Oregon requires that snowmobiles be both titled (ORS 821.060) and registered (ORS 821-080) to lawfully operate on public spaces in the state; out-of-state registration is generally allowed and observed, and an out-of-state permit is also available. Both failure to title and failure to register a snowmobile is punishable as a Class D traffic violation.

Sno Parks are a key resource in Oregon for outdoor winter recreation. Use of these facilities requires purchase of a Sno Park Permit, which is essentially a parking pass for access to the area. Many of Oregon's nearly 100 sno parks offer snowmobile trails, in addition to downhill and cross-country skiing, dog sledding, and sledding, and are concentrated mostly in eastern and southern Oregon. Snowmobiles must be both titled and registered in order to lawfully operate in sno parks.

Oregon's snowmobile registration fee is currently set at \$10 and is valid for two years. Senate Bill 1565 increases the fee to \$30 to provide greater funding for the state's snowmobile programs.