Sixty-fourth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

SENATE BILL NO. 2139

Introduced by

Senators Larsen, Armstrong

(At the request of the Parks and Recreation Department)

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact two new sections to chapter 39-24 of the North Dakota
- 2 Century Code, relating to accidents and liability; to amend and reenact sections 39-05-02.2,
- 3 39-24-01, 39-24-02, 39-24-03, 39-24-03.1, 39-24-04, 39-24-05, 39-24-06, 39-24-07, 39-24-08,
- 4 39-24-09, 39-24-09.1, 39-24-10, and 39-24-11, and subsection 2 of section 57-40.3-01 of the
- 5 North Dakota Century Code, relating to the licensing of snowmobiles; to provide a penalty; and
- 6 to provide an effective date.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

- 8 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-05-02.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:
- 10 **39-05-02.2.** Exclusions from the certificate of title requirement.
- 11 A certificate of title need not be obtained for:
- 1. A vehicle owned by the United States unless it is registered in this state.
- A vehicle owned by a manufacturer or dealer and held for sale, even if incidentally
 moved on the highway or used for purposes of testing or demonstration, or a vehicle
 used by a manufacturer solely for testing.
- 3. A vehicle owned by a nonresident of this state and not required by law to be registeredin this state.
- 4. A vehicle regularly engaged in interstate transportation of persons or property which is registered in accordance with the international registration plan and for which a currently effective certificate of title has been issued in another state that has a reciprocal excise tax agreement with this state.
- 5. A vehicle moved solely by human or animal power.
- 23 6. Implements of husbandry.
- Special mobile equipment.

- 1 8. A self-propelled wheelchair or tricycle for a mobility-impaired individual.
- Any vehicle which is driven or moved upon a highway only for the purpose of crossing
 the highway from one property to another. The vehicle shall cross the highway at an
 angle of approximately ninety degrees to the direction of the highway.
- 5 10. Other vehicles not required to be registered in this state or not required to display distinctive plates.
- 7 11. A manufactured home with respect to which the requirements of subsections 1 through 3 of section 39-05-35, as applicable, have been satisfied.
- 9 <u>12.</u> A snowmobile as defined in section 39-24-01.
- 10 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-24-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:
- 12 **39-24-01. Definitions.**
- For the purposes of this chapter:
- "Collector snowmobile" means a snowmobile that is twenty-five years old or older, was
 originally produced as a separate identifiable make by a manufacturer, and is owned
 and operated solely as a collector's item.
- 2. "Dealer" means a person engaged in the business of buying, selling, or exchanging snowmobiles, who advertises or holds out to the public as being engaged in the buying, selling, or exchanging of snowmobiles, or who engages in the buying of snowmobiles for resale.
- 3. "License" means the act of assigning a license number to a snowmobile.
- 22 <u>4.</u> "Operate" means to ride in or on and control the operation of a snowmobile.
- 23 4.5. "Operator" means every person who operates or is in actual physical control of a snowmobile.
- 25 <u>5.6.</u> "Owner" means a person, other than a lienholder, having the property in or title to a snowmobile and who is entitled to the use or possession of that snowmobile.
- 27 6. "Register" means the act of assigning a registration number to a snowmobile.
- 7. "Roadway" means that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel.
- 30 8. "Snowmobile" means a self-propelled vehicle intended for off-road travel primarily on snow, having a curb weight of not more than one thousand two hundred pounds

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1	[544.31 kilograms], driven by track or tracks in contact with the snow, steered by a ski
2	or skis in contact with the snow, and which is not wider than forty-eight inches
3	[121.92 centimeters]. The term does not include an off-highway vehicle as defined in
4	chapter 39-29 converted to operate on tracks.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 39-24-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

7 39-24-02. Snowmobile registrationlicensing - Title certificate Identification numbers -General requirements.

- <u>1.</u> Except as hereinafterotherwise provided in this section, nog person may not operate or give permission to operate any snowmobile unless the snowmobile has been registered numbered and licensed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.
- Any snowmobile purchased after July 1, 1973, must be titled under the provisions of chapter 39-05 numbered and licensed in order to be operated under the provisions of this section. Any snowmobile purchased prior to before July 1, 1973, may be titledunder the provisions of chapter 39-05 numbered and licensed.
- SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Section 39-24-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-24-03. Registration - Application - Issuance - Fees - Renewal.

- Application for registrationa license must be made to the parks and recreation department in a form as the parks and recreation department shall prescribe and furnish and must state the name and address of every owner of the snowmobile and be signed by at least one owner. A copy of the application must be carried on the person when operating and shall serve as evidence of registrationa recent and current <u>license</u> for a period of not more than thirty days from the date of application.
- 2. Upon receipt of the application in approved form and the appropriate fee, the parks and recreation department shall register arecord the application and issue the applicant a license with an identification number awarded the snowmobile and assigna registration number and a certificate of registration. The registrationowner shall securely attach to each side of the snowmobile the identification number must be atleast one and one-half inches [3.81 centimeters] in height and of a reflectorizedmaterial and must be securely affixed on each side of the snowmobile in a position as-

- to provide clear legibility for identification. The certificate of registrationlicense must include information regarding the make, year, serial number, and name and address of the owner. The fee for registrationlicensing of each snowmobile must be fivesixty dollars for any portion of the registrationlicensing period and the registrationlicensing period is for two years beginning October first of each odd-numbered year. The fee for a duplicate or replacement registrationlicense identification number or registrationlicense card whichor decal that is lost, mutilated, or becomes illegible may not exceed five dollars. In addition, in each year that fees are collected for the unsatisfied judgment fund there must be assessed a fee of one dollar per year for each snowmobile registered under the provisions of this chapter, there must be assessed a snowmobile trail tax in the amount of thirty-five dollars.
- 3. Every owner of a snowmobile shall renew the registration in a manner as the parks and recreation department shall prescribe, upon payment of the same registration fees provided in this section.
- 4. Upon application for registrationa license as prescribed in this section, any snowmobile dealer as defined in section 39-24-01 must be issued registrationlicense identification numbers distinctively marked as dealer's registrationlicense identification numbers upon payment of the appropriate fee as prescribed in this section. The dealer's registrationlicense identification numbers must be used only on snowmobiles owned by the dealership.
- While operating a snowmobile, the identification number awarded to a snowmobile dealer must be properly displayed and valid.
- **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-24-03.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-24-03.1. Snowmobile safety fees.

Upon the sale of a new or used snowmobile and in addition to other fees and taxes imposed under section 39-24-03, a dealer shall collect a five dollar safety fee from the buyer. Within fifteen days after the end of each calendar quarter, the dealer shall file a report with the parks and recreation department which discloses the number of snowmobiles sold during that calendar quarter and includes fees collected from the buyer. Fees imposed under this section

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- Legislative Assembly 1 must be deposited in the state snowmobile fund established under section 39-24-05. The parks 2 and recreation department may use these funds solely for snowmobile safety education and 3 promotion. The parks and recreation department shall report to the director within thirty days of 4 the end of each calendar quarter the motor-powered recreational vehicle dealers that submitted 5 a safety fee report and the number of vehicles sold, and shall identify every dealer not collecting 6 or transmitting snowmobile safety fees. 7 SECTION 6. AMENDMENT. Section 39-24-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is 8 amended and reenacted as follows: 9 39-24-04. Exemption from registrationlicense - Exemption from fees. 10 A registration license number must be issued without the payment of a fee for 11 snowmobiles owned by the state of North Dakota or any of its political subdivisions 12 upon application for the registration. 13 No registration Alicense or feesfee may not be required of: 14 Snowmobiles owned and used by the United States or another state or its a. 15 political subdivisions. 16 Snowmobiles registered or licensed in a country other than the United States and b. 17 temporarily used within this state. 18 C. Snowmobiles validly licensed in another state and which have not been within 19 this state for more than thirty consecutive days. 20 Snowmobiles operated solely upon lands owned or leased by the snowmobile d. 21 owner. 22 Snowmobiles incapable of speeds in excess of ten miles per hour and with an e. 23 engine displacement of less than one hundred cubic centimeters. 24 f. Collector snowmobiles. The director of the parks and recreation department may 25 issue a special permit to a person to operate in a parade; organized group
 - outings, including races, rallies, or other promotional events; and for up to ten days each year for personal transportation. The director of the parks and recreation department may impose a reasonable restriction of a permittee and may revoke, amend, suspend, or modify a permit for cause.
 - 3. If a snowmobile is exempt from registrationlicensing under subdivision b or c of subsection 2, the owner is required to purchase an out-of-state public trails and lands

access permit received upon payment of a fifteentwenty dollar per year fee. The
permit must be in the operator's possession when that individual is operating the
snowmobile within the state. Dealers or other agents authorized by the director of the
parks and recreation department who sell out-of-state public trails and lands access
permits may retain one dollar of the fifteen dollar per year fee and the remainder of the
fees collected under this subsection must be deposited in the state snowmobile fund.

SECTION 7. AMENDMENT. Section 39-24-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-24-05. Disposition of registrationlicense fees and trail tax - Transfer from highway tax distribution fund.

Fees from registrationlicensing of snowmobiles must be deposited with the state treasurer and credited to the highway tax distribution fundwho shall credit the funds to the parks and recreation department to pay for the costs of administering this chapter. The assessed snowmobile trail-taxlicense fee must be deposited in a state snowmobile fund in the state treasury. Additionally, an amount equal to the tax collected on thirty gallons [113.56 liters] of motor vehicle fuel multiplied by the number of collector snowmobiles and snowmobiles registeredlicensed under this chapter must be transferred annually from the highway tax distribution fund, before allocation of the fund under section 54-27-19, and credited to the state snowmobile fund. The parks and recreation department may, upon appropriation by the legislative assembly, expend from suchtine fund moneys it deems necessary for purposes of administering snowmobile safety programs and establishing and maintaining snowmobile facilities and programs.

SECTION 8. AMENDMENT. Section 39-24-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-24-06. Transfer or termination of snowmobile ownership or change of address of owner.

Within fifteen days after the transfer of ownership, or any part thereofof ownership, other than a security interest, or the theft, destruction, or abandonment of any snowmobile, or a change of address of the owner as listed with the application for registrationlicense, written notice thereofof the transfer of any of these changes must be given by the owner to the director of the parks and recreation department in sucha form as must be prescribed by the director of

- 1 the parks and recreation department. The transfer, theft, destruction, or abandonment
- 2 terminates the certificate of number and license for the snowmobile except that, in the case of a
- 3 <u>transfer of a part interest which does not affect the owner's right to operate the snowmobile, the</u>
- 4 transfer does not terminate the identification number and license.
- 5 **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-24-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:
- 7 39-24-07. Licensing by political subdivisions.
- NoA political subdivision of this state may <u>not</u> require licensing or <u>other</u> registration of snowmobiles subject to the provisions of this chapter.
- SECTION 10. AMENDMENT. Section 39-24-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:
- 12 **39-24-08**. Rules and regulations.

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- Pursuant to this code and this chapter, rules Rules for the regulation and use of snowmobiles must be adopted as follows:
 - The director of the parks and recreation department shall adopt rules for the
 registrationlicensing of snowmobiles and display of registrationlicensing identification
 numbers as to provide clear legibility for identification.
 - 2. The director of the department of transportation has the authority in the interest of public health, welfare, and safety to regulate, restrict, or prohibit, by rule, the operation of snowmobiles on those highways under the director's jurisdiction of the director of the department of transportation. The director's authority of the director of the department of transportation to prohibit the use of snowmobiles is limited to the roadways, shoulders, inslopes, and medians within the right of way, except where such action is necessary to avoid an obstacle. Notwithstanding the racing prohibitions in section 39-08-03.1, the director of the department of transportation may, on a case-by-case basis, permit organized and bona fide snowmobile races on the ditch bottoms, backslopes, and the top of the backslopes of the highway rights of way under the director's jurisdiction of the director of the department of transportation. The planning, organization, route selection, and safety precautions of any such race are the sole responsibility of the permittee. It is expressly provided that the director of the

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- department of transportation, and the <u>transportation</u> department and the employees thereof, shall incur no liability whatsoever for permitting such races.
 - 3. The director of the parks and recreation department shall adopt rules for regulating use of snowmobiles in state parks and other state-owned land under the supervision of the director of the parks and recreation department.
 - 4. The governing bodies of political subdivisions shall promulgate rules and regulations for regulating use of snowmobiles in recreation and other appropriate areas under their jurisdiction. The governing bodies of cities may, by ordinance, regulate, restrict, and prohibit the use of snowmobiles when operated within the exclusive jurisdiction of cities.
 - **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-24-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-24-09. Rules for operation of snowmobiles.

- 1. NoA person may not operate a snowmobile upon the roadway, shoulder, or inside bank or slope of any road, street, or highway in this state except as provided pursuant toin this chapter. NoA person may not operate a snowmobile may be operated at any time within the right of way of any interstate highway within this state except as provided in this section.
- A snowmobile may make a direct crossing of a non-interstate street or highway provided:
 - The crossing is made at an angle of approximately ninety degrees to the direction of the highway and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing;
 - The snowmobile is brought to a complete stop before crossing the shoulder or main traveled way of the highway;
 - c. The driver yields the right of way to all oncoming traffic which constitutes an immediate hazard; and
 - d. In crossing a divided highway, the crossing is made only at an intersection of such highway with another public street or highway.
 - 3. NoA person may not operate a snowmobile may be operated unless it is equipped with at least one headlamp, one tail_lamp, and brakes, all in working order, which conform

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- 1 to standards prescribed by rule of the director pursuant to the authority vested in the 2 director by this code and this chapter of the department of transportation. 3 4. The emergency conditions under which a snowmobile may be operated other than as 4 provided by this chapter must be such as to render the use of an automobile 5 impractical under such conditions at such period of time and location. 6 5. It is unlawful for any person to drive or operate any snowmobile in the following ways 7 which are declared to be unsafe and a public nuisance: 8 At a rate of speed greater than reasonable or proper under all the surrounding 9 circumstances. 10 b. In a careless, reckless, or negligent manner so as to endanger the person or 11 property of another or to cause injury or damage to suchthe person or property. 12 or to chase or harass wildlife, or in any manner that is not reasonable or prudent 13 under the circumstances. 14 While under the influence of intoxicating liquor or a drug as defined in section C. 15 39-24.1-01, or a combination thereof. 16 Without a lighted headlamp and tail_lamp when required for safety. d. 17 In any tree nursery or planting in a manner which damages or destroys growing e. 18 stock. 19 Without a manufacturer-installed or equivalent muffler in good working order and 20 connected to the snowmobile exhaust system. 21 Upon any private land where the private land is posted by the owner or tenant g. 22 prohibiting trespassing. The name of the person posting the land must appear on 23 each sign in legible characters. The posted signs must be readable from the 24 outside of the land and must be placed conspicuously at a distance of not more 25 than eight hundred eighty yards [804.68 meters] apart, provided further that as to 26 land entirely enclosed by a fence or other enclosure, posting of signs at or on all 27 gates through the fence or enclosure constitutes a posting of all the enclosed 28 lands.
 - 6. It is unlawful for any person to operate a snowmobile pursuant tounder this chapter 39-24 without having in possession a valid driver's license, except as provided by section 39-24-09.1.

- If a snowmobile is operated within the right of way of any road, street, or highway of this state under this chapter, during times or conditions that warrant the use of lights, the snowmobile operator shall travel in the same direction as the direction of motor vehicles traveling on the side of the roadway immediately adjacent to the side of the right of way traveled by the snowmobile. An operator of a snowmobile traveling on a snowmobile trail maintained by the parks and recreation department which is within the right of way of any road, street, or highway of this state is exempted from this rule. The operator shall wait for all traffic to clear the roadway before crossing bridges and other similar structures.
 - 8. It is unlawful for any person to operate a snowmobile within a highway right of way as defined in subsection 38 of section 24-01-01.1 between April first and November first of any year.
 - 9. NoA person may not operate a snowmobile may be operated at any time within the right of way of any highway within this state while towing a sled, skid, or other vehicle, unless the sled, skid, or other vehicle is connected to the snowmobile by a hinged swivel and secure hitch.
 - 10. NoA person under the age of eighteen years may not operate, ride, or otherwise be propelled on a snowmobile unless the person wears a safety helmet meeting United States department of transportation standards.
 - 11. A person may not operate a snowmobile, and an owner of a snowmobile may not knowingly permit the snowmobile to be operated, upon any property maintained, leased, or owned by the state parks and recreation department to which the public has a right of access for snowmobile or other vehicular use, without a policy of liability insurance which insures the person named, and any person using the snowmobile with the express or implied permission of the person named, against loss from the liability imposed by law for damages arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of the snowmobile within this state, subject to the following limits, exclusive of interest and costs, with respect to each snowmobile: twenty-five thousand dollars because of bodily injury to or death of one person in any one accident and, subject to the limit for one person, fifty thousand dollars because of bodily injury to or death of two or more persons in any one accident, and twenty-five thousand dollars because of injury to or

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- destruction of property of others in any one accident. Upon request of a law enforcement officer, a person operating a snowmobile shall provide proof of liability insurance to that officer within twenty days.
 - 12. A snowmobile person may not-be operated operate a snowmobile within the right of way of any interstate highway within this state except:
 - a. For emergency purposes; or
 - b. Across an interstate highway on an overpass or underpass, except where otherwise prohibited by law or by signing, provided the snowmobile crosses on the extreme right side of the overpass or underpass.
 - 13. A person may not cause or knowingly permit a minor under twelve years of age to operate a snowmobile unless the minor is otherwise authorized by this section.
 - **SECTION 12. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-24-09.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-24-09.1. Operation by individuals at least twelve years of age.

An individual twelve years of age and over may not operate a snowmobile unless the individual is in possession of a valid driver's license, operates the snowmobile on private land, or unless the individual has completed a snowmobile safety training course as prescribed by the director of the parks and recreation department pursuant to chapter 28-32 and has received the appropriate snowmobile safety certificate issued by the director of the department of transportationparks and recreation department. The failure of an operator to exhibit a snowmobile safety certificate upon demand to any official authorized to enforce this chapter is presumptive evidence that the individual is not the holder of the certificate. Fees collected from each individual receiving certification must be deposited into the snowmobile trail tax fund for purposes of establishing snowmobile safety programs.

SECTION 13. AMENDMENT. Section 39-24-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-24-10. Enforcement.

Peace officers of this state and their respective duly authorized representatives are herebyauthorized to enforce the provisions of this chapter <u>and in the exercise of these provisions have</u> the authority to stop any snowmobile subject to this chapter.

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SECTION 14. AMENDMENT. Section 39-24-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is 2 amended and reenacted as follows:

39-24-11. Penalties.

Any person who violates subsection 12 of section 39-24-09 must be assessed a fee of one hundred dollars. Any person who violates subdivision b or g of subsection 5 of section 39-24-09 is guilty of a class B misdemeanor. Any person who violates subdivision c of subsection 5 of section 39-24-09 is guilty of an infraction or a class B misdemeanor as determined by section 39-24.1-07. Any person who violates subsection 11 of section 39-24-09 is guilty of a class B misdemeanor and must be assessed a fine of at least one hundred dollars. Any person who violates any other provision of section 39-24-09 must be assessed a fee of twenty dollars. Any person, unless specifically exempted, who fails to registerlicense or fails to display a decal as required by sections 39-24-02 and 39-24-04 must be assessed a fee of fifty dollars. If the person provides proof of registrationlicensing after the violation, the fee may be reduced by one-half. Any person who violates any other provision of this chapter for which a specific penalty is not provided must be assessed a fee of ten dollars.

SECTION 15. Two new sections to chapter 39-24 of the North Dakota Century Code are created and enacted as follows:

Collisions, accidents, casualties, and liability.

The operator of a snowmobile involved in a collision, accident, or other casualty, so far as that person can do so without serious danger to that person and that snowmobile's passengers, shall render to other persons affected by the collision, accident, or other casualty assistance as may be practicable and necessary to save them from or minimize any danger caused by the collision, accident, or other casualty. That person also shall give that person's name, address, and snowmobile identification in writing to any person injured and to the owner of any property damaged in the collision, accident, or other casualty. If a collision, accident, or other casualty involving a snowmobile results in death or injury to a person or damage to property in excess of an amount specified by the director of parks and recreation by rule, the operator of the snowmobile shall file with the parks and recreation department a full description of the collision, accident, or other casualty, including such information as the director of the parks and recreation department may require by rule.

2. Any operator of a snowmobile, or other person who complies with this section or who gratuitously and in good faith renders assistance at the scene of a snowmobile collision, accident, or other casualty without objection of any person assisted may not be held liable for any civil damages as a result of the rendering of assistance or for any act or omission in providing or arranging salvage, towage, medical treatment, or other assistance where the assisting person acts as an ordinary, reasonably prudent person would have acted under the same or similar circumstances.

Owner's civil liability.

The owner of a snowmobile is liable for any injury or damage caused by the negligent operation of the snowmobile. The owner is not liable, however, unless the snowmobile is being used with the owner's express or implied consent. It must be presumed that the snowmobile is being operated with the knowledge and consent of the owner, if at the time of the injury or damage it is under the control of the owner's spouse, father, mother, brother, sister, son, or daughter. This section does not relieve any other person from any liability that person would otherwise have and does not authorize or permit any recovery in excess of injury or damage actually incurred.

SECTION 16. AMENDMENT. Subsection 2 of section 57-40.3-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

2. "Motor vehicle" includes every vehicle that is self-propelled and every vehicle that is propelled by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires, but not operated upon rails, every trailer, semitrailer, park model trailer as defined in subsection 2 of section 57-55-10, off-highway vehicle, snowmobile, low-speed vehicle, and travel trailer for which a certificate of title is required to be obtained under chapter 39-05, but not including snowmobiles, housetrailers or mobile homes.

SECTION 17. EXPIRATION EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act becomes effective on July 1, 2016.