

# MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

2162

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Operator's Signature

Date

2003 SENATE TRANSPORTATION

SB 2162

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Deanne Halliwell  
Operator's Signature

10/17/03  
Date

2003 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2162

Senate Transportation Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date 1-16-03

| Tape Number                                    | Side A | Side B | Meter #  |
|--|--------|--------|----------|
| 1  |        | X      | 558-3110 |
|  |        |        |          |
|  |        |        |          |
| Committee Clerk Signature <i>Mary K Monson</i> |        |        |          |

Minutes:

The hearing on SB 2162 was opened by **Chairman Senator Thomas Trenbeath**.

**Senator Judy Lee:** (District 13) Testified in support of SB 2162. Testimony attached.

**Dave Link:** (Board Member of the Executive Board of Directors for Snowmobile North Dakota)

Testified in support of SB 2162 on behalf of Snowmobile North Dakota. Testimony attached.

**Senator Espgaard:** How many snowmobiles are registered in North Dakota?

**Dave Link:** Approximately 18,400.

**Senator Espgaard:** Is the trail tax used to maintain the trails?

**Dave Link:** Yes

(Meter 1375) Discussion on the gas tax the organization receives. It is based on 30 gallons per snowmobile per year, amounting to approximately \$90,000.

**Doug Prchal:** (Director of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department) Testimony attached in favor of SB 2162.

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*Deanne Hall*  
Operator's Signature

*10/17/03*  
Date

SB 2162  
Bill/Resolution Number SB 2162  
Hearing Date 1-16-03

**Senator Trenbeath:** (Meter 1940) How many grooming machines do you have?

**Doug Prchal:** There are about 20 owned by the state of North Dakota. Our contracts require the maintenance and management of the machines.

**Senator Trenbeath:** Does Snowmobile North Dakota do the actual use, operation, care, and feeding of the machines.

**Doug Prchal:** They are volunteers (club members) who go through a training process.

**Senator Trenbeath:** Are they stored on state property?

**Doug Prchal:** (Meter 2035) Some in state parks and some on private property.

**Senator Espegard:** How are the grooming machines paid for?

**Doug Prchal:** Through the trail tax fund. No state dollars. (Meter 2090)

**Senator Bercier:** (Meter 2240) Are you aware that in Rolette County there is a problem getting groomers through the area?

**Doug Prchal:** (Meter 2325) Yes. It is a jurisdictional issue with state lands and tribal lands.

**Senator Nething:** (Meter 2500) Is there any expansion planned with the new money?

**Doug Prchal:** Maintaining and improving the quality of the existing system is the primary focus.

**Senator Espegard:** I think another revenue source is more gas tax as well.

**Doug Prchal:** (Meter 2868) As snowmobile registrations increase corresponding revenue comes from the gas tax.

The hearing on SB 2162 was closed.

**Senator Espegard** motioned a **Do Pass** and be referred to Appropriations.. Second by

**Senator Bercier.** Roll call taken. 5-1-0. **Passed.** Floor carrier is **Senator Taylor.**

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*Douglas Prchal*  
Operator's Signature

10/17/03  
Date

**FISCAL NOTE**  
Requested by Legislative Council  
01/03/2003

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2162

**1A. State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

|                | 2001-2003 Biennium |             | 2003-2005 Biennium |             | 2005-2007 Biennium |             |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|
|                | General Fund       | Other Funds | General Fund       | Other Funds | General Fund       | Other Funds |
| Revenues       |                    |             |                    | \$358,236   |                    | \$358,236   |
| Expenditures   |                    |             |                    | \$2,000     |                    | \$1,000     |
| Appropriations |                    |             |                    | \$2,000     |                    | \$1,000     |

**1B. County, city, and school district fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

| 2001-2003 Biennium |        |                  | 2003-2005 Biennium |         |                  | 2005-2007 Biennium |         |                  |
|--------------------|--------|------------------|--------------------|---------|------------------|--------------------|---------|------------------|
| Counties           | Cities | School Districts | Counties           | Cities  | School Districts | Counties           | Cities  | School Districts |
|                    |        |                  | \$8,556            | \$5,208 |                  | \$8,556            | \$5,208 |                  |

**2. Narrative:** *Identify the aspects of the measure which cause fiscal impact and include any comments relevant to your analysis.*

This bill increases snowmobile registration fees by \$20 per two year cycle. \$18 of the increase goes to the Snowmobile Trail Tax Fund and \$2 of the increase goes to Highway Tax Distribution Fund. Cities and Counties share 37% of funds in the Highway Tax Distribution Fund. The \$358,236 of revenue for the State will be distributed between the Snowmobile Trail Tax fund (\$334,800) and the Highway Fund (\$23,436).

**3. State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

**A. Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

There are approximately 18,600 registered snowmobiles in North Dakota. Registrations on snowmobiles are due once each biennium. The fiscal effects identified above are based on the number of registered snowmobiles and the increases proposed in this bill.

**B. Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

The identified expenditures are to provide information to snowmobile owners regarding the increase, most likely by way of an insert sent with their registration renewal notice. In addition, we anticipate increased telephone calls and letters from snowmobile owners regarding the increase in their registration fees.

**C. Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, of the effect on the biennial appropriation for each agency and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget. Indicate the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations.*

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10/17/03  
Date

The expenditures identified above were not anticipated when the Department budget was prepared and were therefore not included in the Department budget.

|               |               |                |                            |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Name:         | Shannon Sauer | Agency:        | ND Dept. of Transportation |
| Phone Number: | 328-4375      | Date Prepared: | 01/08/2003                 |

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Deanne Hall  
Operator's Signature

01/17/03  
Date

Date: 1-16-03  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2003 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2162

Senate TRANSPORTATION Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken Do Pass. Refer to Appropriations

Motion Made By Sen. Espgaard Seconded By Sen. Bercier

| Senators                          | Yes | No | Senators               | Yes | No |
|-----------------------------------|-----|----|------------------------|-----|----|
| Senator Thomas Trenbeath, Chair   | ✓   |    | Senator Dennis Bercier | ✓   |    |
| Senator Duaine Espgaard, V. Chair | ✓   |    | Senator Ryan Taylor    | ✓   |    |
| Senator Duane Mutch               |     | ✓  |                        |     |    |
| Senator Dave Nething              | ✓   |    |                        |     |    |
|                                   |     |    |                        |     |    |
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|                                   |     |    |                        |     |    |
|                                   |     |    |                        |     |    |

Total (Yes) 5 No 1

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen. Taylor

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

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Dianne Hollister  
Operator's Signature

10/17/03  
Date

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)**  
January 16, 2003 1:07 p.m.

Module No: SR-08-0648  
Carrier: Taylor  
Insert LC: . Title: .

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
SB 2162: Transportation Committee (Sen. Trenbeath, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS**  
and **BE REREFERRED** to the Appropriations Committee (5 YEAS, 1 NAY,  
0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2162 was rereferred to the Appropriations  
Committee.

(2) DESK, (3) COMM

Page No. 1

SR-08-0648

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Deanne Hall  
Operator's Signature

01/17/03  
Date



2003 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2162

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Deanna Hall  
Operator's Signature

10/17/03  
Date

# 2003 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2162

Senate Appropriations Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date 1-27-03

| Tape Number                                     | Side A | Side B | Meter #   |
|---|--------|--------|-----------|
| 1   |        | X      | 5041- end |
| 2   | X      |        | 0-412     |
| Committee Clerk Signature <i>Sandra Davison</i> |        |        |           |

Minutes: Chairman Holmberg opened the hearing to SB 2162. Bill relating to snowmobile registration fees. (Meter 5041) Senator Lee: Introduced the bill she sponsored at the request of snowmobile riders. Summarized that the snowmobile registrations fees be increased from three dollars to five dollars. A seventeen dollar trail tax would increase to thirty five dollars. The funding is to cover trail improvements. (Meter 360) Doug Prchal, ND Parks and Recreation: This bill was initiated by the snowmobile association. Gave a background of his department with the relationship of the snowmobile association. He contracts with clubs (volunteers) who work hard to maintain the trail system and the safety of the trails, enforcement of the trails. He gave his departments support to this bill. (Meter 5760) Senator Kilzer: who carries the liabilities of injuries on these trails? (Meter 5808) Doug Prchal: The contract which is set states the snowmobiler carries his own insurance. (Meter 5964) Senator Christmann: Where are these trails? (Meter 6006) Doug Prchal: the trails are located from the Pembina, Turtle Mountains through the hills to the Pembina gouge, down the Red River, in the Devils Lake basin, down in

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*Deanne Hall*  
Operator's Signature

*01/27/03*  
Date

Page 2  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Bill/Resolution Number SB 2162  
Hearing Date 1-27-03

southeast, Hankinson area, Jamestown, and a trail system in the Dickinson area and in the Williston area. (Meter 6075) Senator Schobinger: What is the number of registered snowmobiles actually use the trails in ND? (Meter 6133) Doug Prchal Approximately 20,000 registered snowmobiles and 10% are members of the association. How many use them? The majority of registered do use these trails as well as the general public.

**Tape 2 Side A**

(Meter 74) Senator Schobinger: Is this comparable to a motorcycle license? (Meter 80) Doug Prchal: Not sure what the registration fee is for motorcycles. (Meter 109) Senator Kringstad: Do you need to belong to an association to ride on these trails? (Meter 140) Doug Prchal: No, the law states that if you ride on public right of way or state trail systems part of the responsibility to maintain or create that system comes from that registration fee. (Meter 148) Keith Keiser, Director of Motor Vehicle Division of the Department of Transportation: Agency responsible for the collection of the fees related to snowmobiles. Fees are comparable to the motorcycle fees. (Meter 208) Senator Schobinger: The one big difference would be that motorcycles are driven on the highways which the infrastructure to build those are significant whereas, snowmobilers in the ditch and on their own property. (Meter 248) Senator Tallackson: Guides are placed to secure areas for snowmobilers, do they have to have permission from the township or the counties? (Meter 283) Doug Prchal: These groups do have to have permission. They go out and secure the right-of-ways, put up signs for safety reasons. The individual clubs place those signs and remove them. (Meter 362) Senator Tallackson: These associations do a good job and the trails are used. (Meter 411) Chairman Holmberg closed the hearing on SB 2162.

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Deanne Hall  
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10/17/03  
Date

2003 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2162 vote

Senate Appropriations Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date 2-05-03

| Tape Number                                    | Side A | Side B | Meter #   |
|--|--------|--------|-----------|
| 1  | X      |        | 4388 -end |
|  |        |        |           |
|  |        |        |           |
| Committee Clerk Signature <i>Sandra Dawson</i> |        |        |           |

Minutes: Chairman Holmberg opened the voting for SB 2162. A bill relating to snowmobile registration fees. A motion by Senator Lindaas and seconded by Senator Thane for a DO PASS. A roll call voice was called. Vote was 8 yeas 5 nays and 1 absent. Yeas- Senator Kilzer, Krauter, Kringstad, Lindaas, Mathern, Robinson, Tallackson, Thane. Nay votes were Holmberg, Bowman, Andrist, Christmann and Schobinger. Senator Grindberg was absent. Bill passed with a DO PASS. Carrier will be Senator Judy Lee-sponsor of the bill.

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*Deanne Hall*  
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*10/17/03*  
Date

2162

Date: 25-03  
Roll Call Vote #: 12003 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO.Senate Appropriations Committee☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken Do PASSMotion Made By Lindaas Seconded By Thane

| Senators                      | Yes | No | Senators | Yes | No |
|-------------------------------|-----|----|----------|-----|----|
| Senator Holmberg, Chairman    |     | ✓  |          |     |    |
| Senator Bowman, Vice Chair    |     | ✓  |          |     |    |
| Senator Grindberg, Vice Chair |     |    |          |     |    |
| Senator Andrist               |     | ✓  |          |     |    |
| Senator Christmann            |     | ✓  |          |     |    |
| Senator Kilzer                | ✓   |    |          |     |    |
| Senator Krauter               | ✓   |    |          |     |    |
| Senator Kringstad             | ✓   |    |          |     |    |
| Senator Lindaas ↑             | ✓   |    |          |     |    |
| Senator Mathern               | ✓   |    |          |     |    |
| Senator Robinson              | ✓   |    |          |     |    |
| Senator Schobinger            |     | ✓  |          |     |    |
| Senator Tallackson            | ✓   |    |          |     |    |
| Senator Thane                 | ✓   |    |          |     |    |

Total (Yes) 8 No 5Absent 1Floor Assignment TRANSPORTATION Joe Taylor

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

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Deanne Hollister  
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10/17/03  
Date

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)  
February 11, 2003 9:50 a.m.

Module No: SR-26-2223  
Carrier: Taylor  
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
SB 2162: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS**  
(8 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2162 was placed on the  
Eleventh order on the calendar.

(2) DESK, (3) COMM

Page No. 1

SR-26-2223

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2003 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION

SB 2162

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Operator's Signature

10/17/03  
Date

# 2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2162

House Transportation Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date March 6, 2003

| Tape Number                                     | Side A | Side B | Meter #            |
|---|--------|--------|--------------------|
| 1   |        | x      | 15.8 to <i>EUB</i> |
| 2   | x      |        | 31.3 to 34.0       |
| Committee Clerk Signature <i>Lauren H. Fink</i> |        |        |                    |

Minutes:

Rep. Welsz opened the hearing on SB 2162, a bill for an Act to amend and reenact section 39-24-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to snowmobile registration fees.

Senator Lee : Representing District 13 as sponsor spoke for the increase and need for more this legislation to help the snowmobile enthusiasts and industry. It was introduced at the request of snowmobile riders and clubs. The bill will increase fees from \$3 to \$5 and the trail fee to \$35 for two year registration. It also provides for duplicate license procedures. It is the hope of the snowmobilers is that the increased revenue will provide additional funding for grooming of trails and other enhancements.

Rep. Welsz: Why separate out the trail tax?

Sen. Lee I have thought of that same question -- I don't know but there will others who follow me who will know the answer I am sure.

Rep. Frank Klein Representing District 36 rose to cite his support for this legislation.

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*Deanne Hollister*  
Operator's Signature

*10/17/03*  
Date



Page 2

House Transportation Committee

Bill/Resolution Number SB 2162

Hearing Date March 6, 2003

Rep. Eckre: Representing District 25 spoke in support of SB 2162.

Rep. Delmore: How many out of state versus residents do we have using our trails?

Rep. Ekre: I don't have any idea but about one third of our students are from out of state -- it seems that about all of them use snowmobiles.

Dave Link: Board Member of the Executive Board of Directors for Snowmobile North Dakota.

His testimony in written form is attached. He spoke for passage of this legislation.

Rep. Weisz: Why do we have a separate trail tax and is it a one time tax?

Dave Link: You pay both at the same time every other year. I don't know why it is separate.

Doug Prchal: Director of North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department I know the language says the \$2 fee is for or \$3 fee currently is an administrative fee the remaining balance is \$17 that goes into the funds to go out to the snowmobile clubs.

Rep. Galvin: ( 29.1 ) What does grooming of a trail entail?

Dave Link: Involve having a groom machine pulling a drag -- or grader than moves the snow back and forth and pulls new snow in from the sides and then packs.

Rep. Ruby: Part of this bill on 21 and then on 22 -- registration fee for two years -- so does that take out the possibility to prorate for -- say a person wants to snowmobile for the second year does that mean you can't prorate or do they pay the full amount?

Dave Link: That is correct -- that is the way the bill is written.

Rep. Thorpe: Can an out-of-stater buy a sticker or donate as a supporter of our snowmobile efforts? If they could do that complimentary -- I think there would be a lot of people willing to do that.

Dave Link: HB 1292 did pass.

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House Transportation Committee  
Bill/Resolution Number SB 2162  
Hearing Date March 6, 2003

Rep. Delmore: Are you in support of that bill because we were looking at a fairly steep increase in that bill? You have been in other states -- what do they do?

Dave Link: ( 32.1 ) Minnesota has it -- South Dakota does not -- Montana -- no; Wisconsin, Yes, Idaho does. I am in favor of the bill as it was amended.

Rep. Delmore: In what year was the \$17 instituted?

Dave Link: About 20 years ago and the money goes into the trail fund.

Doug Prchal: Director of North Dakota Parks Recreation spoke in support of SB 2162. A copy of his prepared remarks are attached.

Rep. Delmore: One of the topics we discussed with one of the past bills is the question of enforcement -- are we getting better on enforcement? -- so that we know that the people who use the trails are pay there fees?

Doug Prchal: We are currently working and developing a more comprehensive approach with Snowmobile North Dakota. Then some of our staff and the parks system will work with them but our numbers are limited. Some of our Snowmobile North Dakota respective clubs have been working with local and county law enforcement and city police. We need to do more.

Rep. Delmore: Are there any penalties under current law if they don't register their snowmobiles?

Doug Prchal: Yes there is a \$50 fine. The law does give a little leniency, if you get that \$50 fine but register your snowmobile with in 10 days that is reduced to \$25.

Rep. Thorpe: I can vouch for the snowmobilers -- they do a good job of policing themselves and their trails use.

Deanne Hall  
Operator's Signature

10/17/03  
Date

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House Transportation Committee  
Bill/Resolution Number SB 2162  
Hearing Date March 6, 2003

There being no other persons wishing to testify for or against SB 2162, Vice Chairman Hawken closed the hearing. ( 43.6 )

Action on SB 2162 Tape 2 Side A ( 31.2 )

Rep. Hawken moved a 'Do Pass' motion for SB 2162. Rep. Delmore seconded the motion.

On a roll call vote the motion carried 10 Ayes 1 Naye 2 Absent and not voting.

Rep. Thorpe was designated to carry SB 2162 on the floor.

End of Record for SB 2162 ( 34.0 )

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Deanne Hall  
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01/17/03  
Date

Date: 3/6/03  
Roll Call Vote #: \_\_\_\_\_

2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2162

House TRANSPORTATION Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Han Seconded By Silmon

| Representatives              | Yes | No | Representatives  | Yes | No |
|------------------------------|-----|----|------------------|-----|----|
| Robin Weisz - Chairman       | ✓   |    | Lois Delmore     | ✓   |    |
| Kathy Hawken - Vice Chairman | ✓   |    | Arlo E. Schmidt  | ✓   |    |
| LeRoy G. Bernstein           | ✓   |    | Elwood Thorpe    | ✓   |    |
| Mark A. Dosch                | ✓   |    | Steven L. Zaiser |     |    |
| Pat Galvin                   | ✓   |    |                  |     |    |
| Craig Headland               | ✓   |    |                  |     |    |
| Clara Sue Price              | ✓   |    |                  |     |    |
| Dan J. Ruby                  |     | ✓  |                  |     |    |
| Dave Weiler                  |     |    |                  |     |    |
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|                              |     |    |                  |     |    |

Total Yes 10 No 1

Absent 2

Floor Assignment Rep. Thorpe

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

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Deanna Hall  
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10/17/03  
Date

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)**  
March 6, 2003 4:09 p.m.

Module No: HR-40-4169  
Carrier: Thorpe  
Insert LC: . Title: .

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**SB 2162: Transportation Committee (Rep. Welsz, Chairman) recommends DO PASS**  
(10 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2162 was placed on the  
Fourteenth order on the calendar.

(2) DESK, (3) COMM

Page No. 1

HR-40-4169

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10/17/03  
Date

2003 TESTIMONY

SB 2162

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Deanne Hallwick  
Operator's Signature

10/17/03  
Date

(For Sen. J. Lee)

Scratch Pad for Bill: SB 2162

SB 2162  
Transportation Committee  
January 16, 2003

SB 2162 has been introduced at the request of snowmobile riders who have requested that the fees be increased from \$3 to \$5, including issuing of duplicate licenses. Also increased would be the snowmobile trail tax from \$17 to \$35.

The hope of the snowmobile riders is that the increased revenue will provide additional funding for grooming trails and providing other enhancements to the sport of snowmobile riding.

I would not introduce a bill to raise fees without the support of the people directly affected, and in this case, the riders are the ones who have worked hard to promote this idea.

I urge the committee to support the \$2 fee increase for the licenses and \$17 for the trail tax in order to increase the appeal of this sport for North Dakota as well as out-of-state snowmobile riders. If we're going to have winter weather, let's make it as appealing to people as possible!

<http://auth.intranetapps.nd.gov/lr/legislature/laws?request=LRLawsPrintScratchPad&memb...> 1/16/2003

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**TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 2162  
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 16, 2003 - 10:30 AM  
LEWIS AND CLARK ROOM**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Transportation Committee, my name is Dave Link, Board Member of the Executive Board of Directors for Snowmobile North Dakota. Snowmobile North Dakota is contracted by the North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department to manage North Dakota's snowmobile program which involves overseeing the snowmobile safety and trail programs. This includes securing land leases, providing trail insurance, inspecting and monitoring trails, law enforcement, and administering snowmobile safety classes and providing snowmobile safety information to the public. These trail operations are funded through the state snowmobile fund. However, a portion of the annual costs in maintaining snowmobile trails are paid by the local clubs and trail associations involved with Snowmobile North Dakota. Currently, Snowmobile North Dakota works with 51 clubs and 18 trail associations in maintaining snowmobile trails. I appear in support of Senate Bill 2162 supporting an increase in the registration fee to five dollars and an increase in the trail tax to thirty-five dollars.

The bill before you came as a result of the efforts of Snowmobile North Dakota through a snowmobile survey completed by Agency Mabu of Bismarck, ND. This survey was developed for a strategic planning device to develop goals and initiatives for the next five years. The survey stated an annual fee of twenty-three dollars and seventy-five cents to be a reasonable and appropriate registration fee for North Dakota snowmobiles. The survey results proclaimed snowmobilers in North Dakota want improved trails, better facilities such as warming houses, parking areas, primitive toilets, and trash receptacles, and increased trail regulation and enforcement.

Currently, the registration fee is three dollars and the trail tax is seventeen dollars. This bill would increase the registration fee to five dollars and the trail tax to thirty-five dollars. The additional dollars would benefit the snowmobile trail fund's trail system by developing and enhancing the current trail system.

North Dakota's trail system is currently challenged by a tight budget which reflects on the quality of the trails and its operation. The tightly run budget does not allow for opportunities in snowmobile advancements which could be avoided with the increased registration fee and trail tax. These enhancements would draw more attraction to North Dakota's snowmobile trail system which in turn creates business development and increased tourism. On average, snowmobilers spend over \$4,000 every year on snowmobiles, equipment and related expenses. By increasing the sport's popularity levels in North Dakota, also creates a possibility of increased spending levels in the local economy from both out-of-state visitors and North Dakota residents.

Snowmobile safety would also benefit from the increased registration fee and trail tax. The additional safety standards would provide better quality signing procedures and additional law enforcement to monitor appropriate snowmobile practices, thus promoting enhanced safety for snowmobilers statewide.



The States of Montana, Minnesota, Wyoming, Wisconsin, and Colorado all have higher annual registration fees than North Dakota. The registration fees are based on either an annual, two or three year period and also include a trail pass for out-of-state visitors. The average annual registration fees for the above named states are as follows: Montana-\$25, Minnesota-\$16.17, Wyoming-\$15.00, Wisconsin-\$15.00, and Colorado-\$15.25. The average annual trail pass for these states is approximately fifteen dollars. South Dakota's current annual registration fee is ten dollars; however, they are in the process of changing the registration program at the current Legislative Session. South Dakota has introduced a bill to add a \$15 trail access fee for out-of-state or out-of-country snowmobile users.

Senate Bill 2162 is the product of increasing financial needs of the snowmobile trail within the state. We ask for a vote of DO PASS on Senate Bill 2162 AS INTRODUCED.

Mr. Chairman this concludes my remarks; I would be pleased to answer any questions the committee may have.

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Deanne Hall  
Operator's Signature

10/17/03  
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## SNOWMOBILE NORTH DAKOTA

### Strategic Assessment Update

Presented by Agency MABU  
October 18, 2002

### Market Research Study

- Conducted in summer 2002
- Designed to assess awareness levels and utilization patterns relating to snowmobile usage in North Dakota and beyond.

### Research Methodology

- Direct mail survey
- Advance postcard with incentive drawing
- Personalized envelope, letter and survey
- Pre-addressed, postage paid return envelope

### Sample Population

- Nearly 14,500 registered snowmobilers
- 1,000 randomly selected (56 undeliverable)
- 170 surveys completed and returned (18%)
- Statistically valid results: 5% margin of error

### Respondent Profile

- Spends 24 days/yr snowmobiling in-state
- Spends 6 days/yr snowmobiling out-of-state
- Has been snowmobiling nearly 20 years
- Owns two snowmobiles (2.1)
- Resides in the eastern part of the state

### Registration Fees

- On average, respondents believe \$23.75/year to be a reasonable fee.
- Nearly half of the respondents (48.8%) believe the current registration fee for two years is between \$15-\$25.
- The overall average reported by all survey respondents was \$25.87/two years.

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### Snowmobile Purchases

- One out of three (34.7%) purchased at least one snowmobile last season.
- Survey respondents spend an average of \$4,533/year on snowmobiles, food, lodging and other snowmobile related purchases during a typical season.

### Awareness of Trails

- The majority of respondents are aware of the Northeast Trail (57.6%), the Peace Garden Trail (57.1%) and the Sheyenne Valley Trails (43.1% for East and 32.4% for West trail).
- Relatively low awareness levels exist for all other trails in the state. (14.7%-27.6%)

### Snowmobile Use

- In spite of lack of snow, vast majority used snowmobiles last year (85.3%)
- Majority described their household snowmobiling activities last year as "less than average." (67.6%)
- The Peace Garden Trail was the most used trail in the state (28.8%)
- The most frequented trails out-of-state are MT, MN and WY.

### Satisfaction With Trails

- Southern Valley and Peace Garden trails were rated the highest in quality of grooming.
- Little Missouri and Roughrider trails were rated the lowest in quality of grooming.
- Respondents rated "length of trails" the highest and "trails shared with ATV's" lowest.
- Respondents rated "fuel stops" and "overnight lodging" the highest and "loading ramps," "primitive toilets" and "trash receptacles" the lowest.

### Other Comments

- Need more snow
- Enhance availability of trail maps
- Hire officers to patrol traffic on the trails.
- Continue to focus on improving trails and facilities throughout the state

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Deanne Wallis  
Operator's Signature

10/17/03  
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**TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 2162**  
**SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**  
**JANUARY 16, 2003 - 10:30 AM**  
**LEWIS AND CLARK ROOM**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Transportation Committee, my name is Doug Prchal, Director of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. I appear in support of Senate Bill 2162 and to recognize the work of Snowmobile North Dakota.

Under North Dakota Century Code § 39-24-05 the Parks & Recreation Department is responsible to administer snowmobile safety programs and snowmobile facilities and trails. In turn, we contract with Snowmobile North Dakota, the largest membership run snowmobile organization in the state, to operate the program. This synergy has proven to be beneficial to the department as well as the snowmobiling community.

The North Dakota Snowmobile trail system has seen a substantive growth over the past ten years to include more than 3000 miles of groomed trails. The focus now is on providing the best quality experience for users of the trail system. The quality of the trails is directly related to the amount of grooming trails receive, directional and safety signage and the number of facilities along the trail system. Focus is on the existing system.

Trails receive a grooming every week depending on snow conditions. For best results, during heavy snow conditions a trail must receive no less than two grooming a week to maintain the base snow and provide a safe trail system. This approach requires more operation dollars, higher salaries, and increased repair and replacement costs.

Over the last decade priorities were set to replace old groomers for newer ones (used in a number of cases) designed to better handle the terrains the state trail system covers. The replacement schedule has is a priority focus to assure a quality and safe system of trails.

Currently over 1.2 million dollars worth of snowmobile grooming equipment is insured. The cost of premium increases, as expected, would increase the insurance premiums by over \$1000 annually. Concurrently, the liability insurance on the trail system saw a \$150 per trail increase from last year. With 18 individual trail systems to insure that brings an increase of nearly \$3000 annually for the program. Given the current insurance market we expect both of these insurance costs to continually increase.

The associations of Snowmobile North Dakota, investing many hours of sweat equity, are the volunteer corps that do the actual, landowner contacts, leasing, maintenance and the signage of the trail system. Grooming operators, safety and direction signs, maintenance and repairs, insurance, enforcement, publicity and marketing are primary fixed operations costs incurred by the program funds. Additional dollars are collected by club members through club fund raisers and donations secured from local businesses to defray costs of maintaining the trail systems. These supplemental funds are harder to secure.

Douglas Prchal  
Operator's Signature

01/17/03  
Date

The recent survey of snowmobile users conducted by Snowmobile North Dakota showed an increase need for enforcement on the trail systems. Our department is currently assessing the enforcement needs and developing a statewide plan to implement. At this time we know that a larger force of officers during the winter is a need. Currently we are discussing with Snowmobile North Dakota board members how our Park staff can be of assistance toward enforcement on the trail system. Other responsibilities in the parks many times mean that limited trails enforcement can be accomplished on weekend. The fee increase would aid this cause through contract enforcement. As well, with added commitment comes an increase in the equipment needed to properly provide enforcement on the trail systems.

Senate Bill 2162 would allow the state to increase the quality of trail experience for residents and tourists. I ask for a DO PASS on Senate Bill 2162.

Mr. Chairman this concludes my remarks, I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

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Answer:  
Legislators  
who support  
snowmobiling.



Snowmobile North Dakota is a state organization made up of 51 snowmobile clubs, 1,978 individual/family memberships and 97 business memberships. Together these clubs and members make up 15 trail associations in North Dakota.

The purpose of Snowmobile North Dakota is to generate excitement for the sport of snowmobiling. Snowmobile North Dakota works to maintain the trails in the state and to keep all Snowmobile North Dakota members, land lease holders, advertisers, snowmobile dealers and other state and provincial associations of the International Snowmobile Council informed about snowmobiling news in the state.

For more information or to  
receive a copy of the 2002 snow-  
mobile survey results contact:

Keri Vammer  
Snowmobile North Dakota  
1835 E Bismarck Expressway  
Bismarck, ND 58504-6708  
(701) 328-5377



SB2162

Question:  
What will it take  
to convert scenes  
like this into  
economic growth  
for North Dakota?

## North Dakota's Favorite Winter Sport

North Dakota - the perfect place for people who love snow. This state offers some of the best snowmobiling in the country, and it shows through North Dakotans' love for the sport. Snowmobiling is enjoyed here by tens of thousands of residents, young and old, rural and urban, male and female, individuals and families.

## Legislative Action Is Needed

Snowmobile North Dakota asks the legislators of North Dakota to support the modification of legislation to enhance snowmobiling in the state. There exists a need to increase the fee to register a snowmobile in North Dakota.

The current snowmobile registration fee is \$20 every two years. Snowmobile North Dakota proposes that the fee be increased to \$40 every two years.

## Rationale for the Change

North Dakota's current snowmobile registration fee remains lower than most surrounding states' registration fees.

| State        | Avg. Annual Registration Fee |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| Montana      | \$25.00                      |
| Minnesota    | \$16.17                      |
| Wyoming      | \$15.00                      |
| South Dakota | \$10.00                      |
| North Dakota | \$10.00                      |

In order for North Dakota to keep up with trail improvements such as grooming, facility upkeep and added signage, additional funds are needed.

## Snowmobilers Support Higher Fees

A recent survey was administered to registered snowmobile users in the state. On average the survey respondents believe \$23.75 annually to be a reasonable and appropriate registration fee for North Dakota snowmobiles. They are in full support of higher fees to enhance trail development throughout the state.

Improving the current trails makes snowmobiling more desirable and will help keep this industry booming. Agree with the snowmobilers themselves and support an increase in North Dakota's current snowmobile registration fee.

## Benefits of Increased Registration Fees

### Trail Development

Based on the recent survey, trail improvements are needed. Regarding facilities, North Dakota snowmobilers were least satisfied with the availability of loading ramps, primitive toilets and trash receptacles. Improving trail facilities will keep North Dakota snowmobilers more satisfied and more likely to ride in-state trails rather than traveling to neighboring states' trails.

### Tourism Promotion

Trail improvements will bring in more out-of-state snowmobilers. More visitors means more money spent on food, lodging and gas.

### Business Development

On average, snowmobilers spend over \$4,000 every year on snowmobiles, equipment and related expenses. Increasing the sport's popularity levels by enhancing the trails will increase spending levels in the local economy from both out-of-state visitors and North Dakota residents.

### Law Enforcement

Increased registration fees will provide the state with much-needed funds to bolster law enforcement efforts on snowmobile trails. Park rangers and other officers will be available to patrol trails and monitor unlawful and inappropriate practices and conditions, thus promoting enhanced safety for snowmobilers statewide.

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Operator's Signature

*[Signature]*

01/17/03  
Date

# NORTH D A K O T A *Snowmobiling Trails*

SB2162

TRAIL CONDITIONS:  
1-800-HELLOND

CONTACT STATE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR A COPY.

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Deanna Nellis RB  
Operator's Signature

10/17/03  
Date



**TESTIMONY – SENATE BILL 2162  
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
MARCH 6, 2003 – 10:30 AM  
FORT TOTTEN ROOM**

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Transportation Committee, my name is Dave Link, Board Member of the Executive Board of Directors for Snowmobile North Dakota. Snowmobile North Dakota is contracted by the North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department to manage North Dakota's snowmobile program which involves overseeing the snowmobile safety and trail programs. This includes securing land leases, providing trail insurance, inspecting and monitoring trails, law enforcement, and administering snowmobile safety classes and providing snowmobile safety information to the public. These trail operations are funded through the state snowmobile fund. However, a portion of the annual costs in maintaining snowmobile trails are paid by the local clubs and trail associations involved with Snowmobile North Dakota. Currently, Snowmobile North Dakota works with 51 clubs and 18 trail associations in maintaining snowmobile trails. I appear in support of Senate Bill 2162 supporting an increase in the registration fee to five dollars and an increase in the trail tax to thirty-five dollars.

The bill before you came as a result of the efforts of Snowmobile North Dakota through a snowmobile survey completed by Agency Mabu of Bismarck, ND. This survey was developed for a strategic planning device to develop goals and initiatives for the next five years. The survey stated an annual fee of twenty-three dollars and seventy-five cents to be a reasonable and appropriate registration fee for North Dakota snowmobiles. The survey results proclaimed snowmobilers in North Dakota want improved trails, better facilities such as warming houses, parking areas, primitive toilets, and trash receptacles, and increased trail regulation and enforcement.

Currently, the registration fee is three dollars and the trail tax is seventeen dollars. This bill would increase the registration fee to five dollars and the trail tax to thirty-five dollars. The additional dollars would benefit the snowmobile trail fund's trail system by developing and enhancing the current trail system. Snowmobile North Dakota maintains 3,000 miles of groomed snowmobile trail and 800 miles of ungroomed trail. These trails are strategically located throughout the state providing easy access to all snowmobile users. The trail systems are customarily placed according to the enthusiasm and participation of the snowmobile users in each area.

North Dakota's trail system is currently challenged by a tight budget which reflects on the quality of the trails and its operation. The tightly run budget does not allow for opportunities in snowmobile advancements which could be avoided with the increased registration fee and trail tax. These enhancements would draw more attraction to North Dakota's snowmobile trail system which in turn creates business development and increased tourism. On average, snowmobilers spend over \$4,000 every year on snowmobiles, equipment and related expenses. By increasing the sport's popularity levels in North Dakota, also creates a possibility of increased spending levels in the local economy from both out-of-state visitors and North Dakota residents.

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*Dianne Hall*  
Operator's Signature

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HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
MARCH 6, 2003 - 10:30 AM (FORT TOTTEN ROOM)**

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The North Dakota Snowmobile trail system has seen a substantive growth over the past ten years to include more than 3000 miles of groomed trails. The quality of the trails is directly related to the amount of grooming trails receive, directional and safety signage and the number of facilities along the trail system. Focus is placed on the existing trail system to maintain and enhance the experience based on user input during development of the 5-year strategic plan. Expansion of the system is not intended with these increases. Maintaining and improving the existing trail system is the priority.

Trails receive a grooming every week depending on snow conditions. For best results, during heavy snow conditions a trail must receive no less than two groomings a week to maintain the base snow and provide a safe trail system. This approach requires more operation dollars, higher salaries, and increased repair and replacement costs.

Over the last decade priorities were set to replace old groomers for newer ones (used in a number of cases) designed to better handle the terrains the state trail system covers. The replacement schedule has priority focus to assure a quality and safe system of trails.

The liability insurance on the trail system saw a \$150 per trail increase from last year. With 18 individual trail systems to insure that brings an increase of nearly \$3000 annually for the program. Given the current insurance market we expect both of these insurance costs to continually increase.

The associations of Snowmobile North Dakota, investing many hours of sweat equity, are the volunteer corps that do the actual, landowner contacts, leasing, maintenance and the signage of the trail system. Grooming operators, safety and direction signs, maintenance and repairs, insurance, enforcement, publicity and marketing are primary fixed operations costs incurred by the program funds. Additional dollars are collected by club members through club fundraisers and donations secured from local businesses to defray costs of maintaining the trail systems. These supplemental funds are getting harder to secure.

The recent survey of snowmobile users conducted by Snowmobile North Dakota gathered during the preparation of the 5-year strategic plan, showed an increase need for enforcement on the trail systems. Our department is currently assessing the enforcement needs and will work with SND in developing a statewide plan to implement. At this time we know that a larger force of officers during the winter is a need. Currently we are discussing with Snowmobile North Dakota board members how our Park staff can be of assistance toward enforcement on the trail system. Other responsibilities in the parks many times mean that limited trails enforcement can be accomplished on weekend. The fee increase would aid this cause through contract enforcement. As well, with added commitment comes an increase in the equipment needed to properly provide enforcement on the trail systems.

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