

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Requested by Legislative Council**  
**03/27/2015**

Amendment to: SB 2164

- 1 A. **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.*

	2013-2015 Biennium		2015-2017 Biennium		2017-2019 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues				\$214,000		\$214,000
Expenditures				\$120,000		\$195,000
Appropriations				\$120,000		

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

	2013-2015 Biennium	2015-2017 Biennium	2017-2019 Biennium
Counties			
Cities			
School Districts			
Townships			

- 2 A. **Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

This bill will increase the registration fees for snowmobiles and the amount of state gas tax transferred into the state snowmobile fund.

- B. **Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

This bill will increase revenues into the State Snowmobile Fund.

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.*

At an average rate of 15,500 licensed resident snowmobiles and 400 non-residents per biennium there will be an estimated additional \$214,000 deposited into the State Snowmobile Fund. These funds will be used to defray expenses incurred for maintenance and management of the State Snowmobile Trail System.

- 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.*

Operating costs for the State Snowmobile Trail System have increased 47% over the last 10 years, therefore the increased revenue will be used to defray these expenses. Projected 1st biennium expenses of \$120,000 with estimated \$75,000 per biennium increase after that. These can only be estimates given the unpredictable nature of snow and the compounding expense rates when the trails are open. The program has seen nearly \$100,000 fluctuations from biennium to biennium driven by snow conditions. Federal grants used to purchase trail grooming equipment are uncertain and Snowmobile North Dakota may look to the State Snowmobile Fund for those purchases.

- C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation or a part of the appropriation is included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

The executive budget includes \$120,000 additional spending authority in the State Snowmobile Fund.

**Name:** Matt Gardner

**Agency:** Parks and Recreation

**Telephone:** 701-328-5369

**Date Prepared:** 03/27/2015

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Requested by Legislative Council**  
**01/09/2015**

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2164

- 1 A. **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.*

	2013-2015 Biennium		2015-2017 Biennium		2017-2019 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues				\$312,000		\$312,000
Expenditures				\$120,000		\$195,000
Appropriations				\$120,000		

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

	2013-2015 Biennium	2015-2017 Biennium	2017-2019 Biennium
Counties			
Cities			
School Districts			
Townships			

- 2 A. **Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

This bill will increase the licensing fees for snowmobiles.

- B. **Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

This bill will increase revenues into the State Snowmobile Fund.

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The executive budget includes \$120,000 additional spending authority in the State Snowmobile Fund.

**Name:** Matt Gardner

**Agency:** Parks and Recreation

**Telephone:** 701-328-5369

**Date Prepared:** 01/14/2015



**2015 SENATE TRANSPORTATION**

**SB 2164**

# 2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Transportation Committee

Lewis and Clark Room, State Capitol

SB 2164

1/22/2015

Recording job number 22366

☐ Subcommittee      ☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

*Donis E. Perry*

### Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

To amend and reenact subsection 2 of section 39-24-03 and subsection 3 of section 39-24-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to snowmobile fees.

### Minutes:

Attachments: 2

Vice Chairman Casper opened the hearing on SB 2164, Chairman Oehlke was absent momentarily.

Senator Kelly Armstrong, District 8; introduced the bill for Senator Larsen. This bill increases the biennial fee on snowmobile registration from \$40 to \$60. The increase would go directly to fund trails and the administration of the snowmobile program.

Senator Rust: the bill says \$5 to \$60, you said \$40?

Senator Armstrong: you have another bill which moves you from the DOT to the Parks and Rec, so when this language comes it will all be in one thing, the \$5 (line 13) comes out and on line 20 it is \$35. So the total is \$40. If the other bill moves thru it will be one fee instead of two, (\$60) if the other bill wouldn't pass it would be \$10 and \$55. It would still be \$40 to \$60.

Chairman Oehlke I thought the Governor was not in favor of fee increase on the other bill.

Senator Armstrong: I don't know how he feels about the regulating community asking for their own fee increase.

Todd Thronson, Trail Inspector, Snowmobile North Dakota, in support of this bill, see attached testimony #1, pages 1-1 to 1-9. (Segments 4:04- 10:27). Explained the services his organization provides to the ND Parks and Rec Dept. Included key findings of the ND Snowmobile Strategic Plan 2013-2017, excerpts of focus areas #1, trail management, and #5 safety education, and enforcement; and 2015 Legislative recommendations.

Chairman Oehlke: is this a two year registration fee? Is the fee transferable to a new sled? Can I get a refund for the months I won't have a sled?

Don Schmidt: Rough Riders Snowmobile Club, Bismarck-Mandan, ND in favor of this bill urges do pass. (10:45- 11:35)

**Matthew Gardner**, Recreation Division Manager for the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) Neutral testimony; attachment # 2: itemized what the registration dollars pay for. Since the last registration increase program expenses have gone up 47%. **Chairman Oehlke**: If you resell a snowmobile within six months of purchase the registration stays with the VIN, with the snowmobile. (12:08-15:25)

No additional testimony, **Vice Chairman Casper** closed the hearing.

**Senator Axness** moved do pass.

**Vice Chairman Casper** seconded the motion

Roll call vote was taken: Yes 6 No 0 Absent 0

Carrier: **Senator Axness**

**2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES  
SB BILL NO. 2164**

Senate TRANSPORTATION Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation: ☐ Adopt Amendment  
☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation  
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations  
☐ Place on Consent Calendar  
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Senator Axness Seconded By Vice Chairman Casper

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Oehlke	X		Senator Axness	X	
Vice Chairman Casper	X		Senator Sinner	X	
Senator Campbell	X				
Senator Rust	X				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator Axness

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

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2164: Transportation Committee (Sen. Oehlke, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS**  
(6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2164 was placed on the  
Eleventh order on the calendar.

**2015 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION**

**SB 2164**



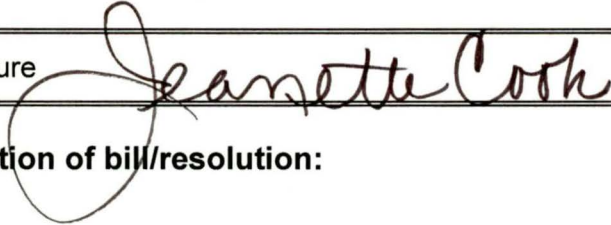
# 2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Transportation Committee Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

SB 2164  
3/12/2015  
#24735

☐ Subcommittee  
Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



### Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A bill relating to snowmobile fees.

### Minutes:

Attachments # 1-4

**Chairman Dan Ruby** opened the hearing on SB 2164.

**Senator Armstrong** introduced the SB 2164. He explained the increase in fees for snowmobiles. It is \$40 to \$60 over two years.

**Representative Rick C. Becker:** Isn't it a 50% increase?

**Senator Armstrong:** Yes.

**Representative Lois Delmore:** What can you tell me about the "unsatisfied judgment fund" that a dollar for each snowmobile goes to?

**Senator Armstrong:** I do not know what that is.

**Todd Thronson, Trail Inspector for Snowmobile North Dakota**, spoke to support SB 2164. Written testimony was provided. See attachment #1. Letters from **Linda Forbes, President of Snowmobile North Dakota**, and **Sheri Hoffmann, Vice-President of Snowmobile North Dakota**, were also provided as testimony. See attachments #2-3.

7:15

**Representative Marvin Nelson:** I get asked questions like: Do we have to pay these fees, if we own a snowmobile, but don't ride in the state?

**Todd Thronson:** No, not if you not riding on public land in the state.

**Representative Gary Paur:** Do you have a dollar amount for what this fee increase will give Snowmobile North Dakota?

**Todd Thronson:** It is on the fiscal note.

**Chairman Dan Ruby:** Currently you register your vehicle and pay the excise tax. After that do you pay this fee annually on top of that?

**Todd Thronson:** It is bi-annually, through the Department of Transportation at this time.

**Chairman Dan Ruby:** If both of these bills pass, will you have to license your snowmobile, and will that be a separate fee again from this one?

**Todd Thronson:** No, it won't. It is just like registering your car every year. It was a license before.

**Representative Rick C. Becker:** In determining the fee did the people that you represent come up with a dollar amount in order to accomplish what you want to accomplish, and then work backward to say that you need to increase it \$20 per head? Or, did you just decide a 50% increase is a good idea? How did you come up with the new fee?

**Todd Thronson:** I will defer that to someone else.

**Vice Chairman Lisa Meier:** When was the last time that these fees were increased?

**Todd Thronson:** It was 2003.

**Representative Lois Delmore:** Will some of the increase in money help to increase trails or make them better for the snowmobilers?

**Todd Thronson:** Absolutely. We are strapped for cash all the time. If all of the system is open, we are out of money in a month. Then, it all goes back to the volunteers on a local level to groom the trails. It would help immensely.

**Chairman Dan Ruby:** Do you get complaints that people pay this every two years and some years there is very little snow, and most of the trails aren't even usable?

**Todd Thronson:** Our jobs are much easier when there is snow on the ground. We do get complaints if there is no snow, and registrations are down.

**Don Schmidt, Roughrider Snowmobile Club in Bismarck,** spoke to support SB 2164. He stated that in years that they groom, they probably groom twice and then run out of money for fuel. Everyone in our club supports this, because if you go to Wyoming to ride it costs \$35 to ride there. With this we would be in line with the rest of the states around us. This increase would be a good idea. We need more money.

**Chairman Dan Ruby:** Are the different trails supported by different clubs in the state.

**Don Schmidt:** Yes, we have about a hundred miles that we take care of.

**Chairman Dan Ruby:** If there is a region in the state that doesn't have trails, would the riders form a club and the organization set the trails?

**Don Schmidt:** That is how it would work, I imagine.

**Keri Wanner, Executive Director for Snowmobile North Dakota,** explained the way that the fee increase was determined. The reason the amount is \$60 per biennium is because of the strategic plan. It gives us direction. We do the research with our membership to see what they would be willing to pay for snowmobile registration. The \$30 figure came from there. We work from that point to see what we could potentially do in additional maintenance, trail systems, and additional equipment.

**Representative Rick C. Becker:** Have you worked with other numbers? We are reluctant to increase fees, taxes, and fines. I feel that a 50% increase is a big increase. Have you considered whether you could accomplish many of your goals with a 25% increase?

**Keri Wanner:** Every year we make sure that we are applying for grant programs and things along that line to make sure we can achieve what we need to every season with the state snowmobile system. We are already looking for other outlying resources. The next step was the registration. The fuel prices have really affected our program. We have to make sure that clubs are doing fund raising. We think that the fee increase is where it needs to be, knowing what the expenses have been. In our program it was decided years ago, that Snowmobile North Dakota's job was to make sure the large dollar amounts are assumed by the program, and then we help the groups fund raise for fuel costs and payroll for groomers.

**Chairman Dan Ruby:** I don't have a problem with a user fee, because the people that use things pay the fees, but this gets put on all snowmobiler owners whether they use the trails or not. It has been a concern of mine. What are the average dues paid by club members?

**Keri Wanner:** We do not regulate the membership fees at the state level. When they pay us, it is \$20 a year for a family membership and businesses are \$31. We try to keep the state dues reasonable, so anything else that they collect they can use for their club purposes.

**Chairman Dan Ruby:** Has there been any discussion about raising the gallon amount up?

**Keri Wanner:** Yes, there has; we have discussed it every year. We have decided that there are already many organizations that benefit from gas tax, so when we come in to lobby for this, we would be taking a piece of someone else's pie. We feel that might be a harder sell, so to speak. It might be harder to convince someone to carry a bill with that in it, too. We try to stick with the user groups, so, they are paying for the trails.

**Chairman Dan Ruby:** On the trails are you liable if someone gets hurt on those trails?

**Keri Wanner:** I am not going to say that we are liable, but that we are required through our contract with North Dakota Parks and Recreation to hold a million dollars' worth of liability. We are also very educated on the Recreational Immunity Act in North Dakota.

**Representative Lois Delmore:** Can you tell me what any of the surrounding states charge for registering snowmobiles?

**Keri Wanner:** In the packet that I provided there is a sheet with a graph that shows all of the other registrations. Minnesota's is \$75 for 3 years, and an annual trail pass which is \$35.

**Representative Lois Delmore:** After looking at those, I don't think we are out of line with what we are charging.

**Representative Rick C. Becker:** Is there a fee to be a member of your group?

**Keri Wanner:** Yes, \$20.

**Representative Rick C. Becker:** Is there a fee for the individual groups?

**Keri Wanner:** No, there is not a fee for the association part of it. We work with them to help manage the trails.

There was no further support for SB 2164.

There was no opposition to SB 2164.

**Matthew Gardner, Recreation Division Manager for the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department,** spoke in a neutral capacity on SB 2164. He provided written testimony. See attachment #4. Representative Lois Delmore, we will try to find out what the Unsatisfied Judgment Fund is.

**Rep. Mark Owens:** (Information) The Unsatisfied Judgment Fund was a fund that was established under the insurance commissioner's purview, and it is under the registration of vehicles. It is part of the Department of Transportation. It is designed ----missed -- a fund to a maximum of \$150,000. Then the fee stops each June 1<sup>st</sup>. It is designed to pay judgments. It is under motor vehicle, so since snowmobiles are there, also, that is why it is there.

**Representative Rick C. Becker:** The fee hasn't been increased since 2003, correct? Is that the same for the trail tax?

**Matthew Gardner:** Yes, that is correct.

There was no further testimony on SB 2164.  
The hearing was closed on SB 2164.

# 2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Transportation Committee**  
Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

SB 2164  
3/13/2015  
#24778

☐ Subcommittee  
Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A bill relating to snowmobile fees.

## Minutes:

Attachment #1

**Chairman Dan Ruby** brought back SB 2164 back before the committee.

**Matthew Gardner** provided information for the committee that was requested during the hearing. See attachment #1.

**Representative Rick C. Becker:** Recording missing... I may be in the minority, but I would vote no if there was a DO PASS as it exists now.

**Representative Robin Weisz:** You have to remember that if you go to Montana or Wyoming there is snow in the mountains all of the time, and you are riding on thousands of miles on some of the best snow in the country. In North Dakota the snow is erratic. Everyone pays a two year registration, and this year there hasn't been a groomed trail that has been open. Last year wasn't much better. I still think that there should be some increase, but you can't compare states. In northern Minnesota there is a lot of riding. In Wyoming it is a \$5 fee, and Montana it is \$60 for a lifetime if you are a resident. Out-of-state riders pay permit fees. Some states do have reciprocity. It is nice to have the trails in North Dakota, but the majority of the registrations that are collected on snowmobiles, are not riding in North Dakota. I am leery about giving a huge increase because you have to argue on the snowmobiler's part as to how much bang they get for their buck.

**Representative Rick C. Becker:** The most I would feel comfortable with be changing the increase from \$40 to \$50 instead of \$40 to \$60.

**Representative Ben Hanson:** Did we get a specific explanation about the methodology behind the increase?

**Vice Chairman Lisa Meier:** They talked about the upkeep for trails and whatnot.



**Representative Ben Hanson:** Did they say we need this many hundreds of dollars so this increase will equal that?

**Vice Chairman Lisa Meier:** No, they really didn't talk about specifics.

**Representative Robin Weisz:** She said that they surveyed their members, and that was the largest increase that they could get support for. Then they worked backwards to decide what they could do with the money from the increased fees.

**Representative Lois Delmore:** I look at \$4,000 a piece that people are willing to spend, so \$30 a year really isn't a huge amount to ask. I do know that some of those clubs do everything from bake sales to whatever, so that snowmobilers can come and utilize their trails. I asked if a good portion of the increase will go to the trails, and the answer was yes.

**Chairman Dan Ruby:** There are a lot of people that don't ride the trails at all though, and they still pay the registration.

**Representative Kathy Hawken:** I have gotten two e-mails about the snowmobile bills. They didn't want us to allow the younger age, and there isn't a total agreement, but the concern was on the trails. But, they had absolutely no problem in raising the fee. I don't think the fee is outrageous. In North Dakota we never raise anything, so then when we do raise something it costs more to get caught up. It is probably harder to keep things going when you don't have good snow.

**Representative Chris Olson:** I received an e-mail that raised the question that if we change the registration fee, and it isn't prorated, a person that paid in the last two months would have to pay the full amount, and then pay again in two months. Are boats prorated?

Unknown speaker: No.

**Representative Chris Olson:** If it stayed at \$5, it wouldn't matter, but at \$60 that is different.

**Representative Lois Delmore:** It is actually \$35 plus \$5, or \$40 now, through the Department of Transportation to register.

**Representative Chris Olson:** Right.

**Representative Lois Delmore:** It is the same with boats, isn't it?

**Representative Rick C. Becker:** Yes, you pay the full fee.

**Representative Gary Paur:** As I remember it, the \$35 passed through the Department of Transportation to the Parks and Recreation. Now, in order to receive the same amount of money, they need to go to \$40.

**Chairman Dan Ruby:** This changes that it will not pass through, but would go directly to the Parks and Rec.



**Representative Chris Olson:** The same e-mail that I received mentioned that the trails in the Drayton area hadn't been groomed for a long time. There are wondering where the fees are going if the trails aren't being groomed. They also said the fees had been doubled not so many years ago.

**Representative Robin Weisz:** It was doubled back in 2003.

**Vice Chairman Lisa Meier:** We might want to change it to every 3 years to pay their registration fee, that is what other states do, and it would be comparable to what we do with the boats. At least the possibility of having a good amount of snow every three years would be better, so the consumer would be getting more for their money.

**Representative Robin Weisz:** That is my point. There isn't always snow, and that is a frustration. But, in many cases the volunteers do a lot of work like marking the trails and hazards. When it snows enough, the groomers do go out and groom the trails.

**Chairman Dan Ruby:** If we keep it at \$60 and go to three years, then we didn't raise anything.

**Representative Robin Weisz:** I don't have a problem with some increase. Maybe they need some; you want to put it in balance.

**Representative Kathy Hawken:** Inaudible, mic not on.

Off mic. discussion.

**Representative Rick C. Becker:** The boat fees are prorated by year. You either pay one year, two years, or 3 years.

**Repetitive information for legislator who was absent during hearing.**

**Representative Gary Paur:** What would happen if you removed the odd number year and just license it, and it is good for two years or three years?

**Representative Robin Weisz:** The Department of Transportation would have issues with that because what they do is get a stack of cards that are all dated, October 1 expires September 30 in the following two years. Their cost would go through the roof if they had to stagger the dates issued and due.

**Chairman Dan Ruby:** I think we have consensus of the fees going up somewhat.

**Representative Robin Weisz:** I would be okay with three years and \$75.

**Representative Robin Weisz moved an amendment to change the registration to three years and \$75.00.**

**Representative Ben Hanson seconded the motion.**  
**A voice vote was taken. The motion carried.**

**Chairman Dan Ruby:** Do you have some language from the boat section?

**Representative Chris Olson:** Representative Marvin Nelson, I was just curious about your resistance to the amendment.

**Representative Marvin Nelson:** The trouble comes if you are in the first year of the three years, you will pay all \$75.00. We are so worried about a guy paying year by year, but then in the third year a person will pay \$25.00. I don't think that there is an advantage to stretching it out to three years. I would be more in favor of two years because of the nature of the snow.

**Representative Chris Olson:** If you to prorate it, it would make more sense to me.

**Representative Marvin Nelson:** I don't have a problem with the prorating it, but the guy who comes in the first year and doesn't ride the second and third year, doesn't get any proration. The guy who comes in the third year gets a good deal. Especially with the three years, it is necessary to prorate it.

**Chairman Dan Ruby:** Do we have any information about the boats?

**Representative Marvin Nelson:** The boats are \$6.00 a year, \$12.00 for two years, for below 16, and then \$10 for up to 20, and \$15 above 20.

**Chairman Dan Ruby:** I was wondering if we need specific language to approve that concept.

**Representative Lois Delmore:** We are looking at \$25 a year! Some of us may go out to dinner tonight and spend \$25. If we were raising this to \$100 a year, it would be different. Someone might pay for a deer license to hunt and not get a deer, but they have still paid the fee because it is something that they wanted to do. There are a lot of things like that.

**Chairman Dan Ruby:** On the bill it states October of the odd numbered year. When you prorate it with the three years, what will you set as the date? If you buy a snowmobile in the third year, you won't even know which one is the third year.

**Representative Robin Weisz:** The Department of Transportation will know.

**Representative Robin Weisz:** Should we consider removing the amendment?

**Representative Lois Delmore:** Let's just leave it on the table for now, and we can always take it off tomorrow if people decide they don't like it. We can have further discussion.

**Representative Gary Paur:** Just for the committee's information, inflation has been 30% since 2003.

**Chairman Dan Ruby:** We have an amendment on the bill, and we should have time tomorrow to discuss this some more. I would like to pass some additional money for them.

# 2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Transportation Committee Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

SB 2164  
3/13/2015  
#24817

☐ Subcommittee  
Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

*Jeanette Cook*

### Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A bill relating to snowmobile fees.

### Minutes:

**Chairman Dan Ruby** brought SB 2164 back before the committee and reviewed the amendment, 3 years for \$75.00.

**Challis Williams, legislative intern:** I did some research and Parks and Recreation doesn't do three year programs on anything. Boats are two years. I don't believe they prorate.

**Representative Rick C. Becker:** Under Chapter 20.1-13-03 Subsection 7, it says that, "every certificate of number and license awarded pursuant to this chapter continues in full force and effect for period of three years". Am I misunderstanding that, or does it mean three years?

**Representative Kathy Hawken:** No one came in opposition to this bill. So, why are we tinkering with it? This organization has looked at this carefully. Sometimes in our effort to make things fair, we mess things up.

**Chairman Dan Ruby:** It has been two years for a long time. Maybe if we just agree on a price and go with that, it would work. There will be some years with no snow, so if we are making it three years, prorating would make sense.

**Representative Kathy Hawken:** There are many examples out there where something doesn't get used, and we still pay the fees: licensing cars that only get used for a few months of a year, hunting licenses where there is no guarantee that you will get a bird or deer, etc. I think we are micromanaging the bill.

**Representative Robin Weisz:** To clarify my comments about lack of snow, it wasn't to the point of not wanting to pay registration if it doesn't snow, the point being, as we compared it to other states it is not uncommon to have limited snow in North Dakota. So, in general, you pay the registration to access trails that are less or marginal compared to other states.

To me the three year tag is a matter of convenience. Then you only have to show up every three years. It is strictly the fact that our state has more limited opportunities than other states, and what they charge for registration.

**Representative Gary Paur:** The registration fee in North Dakota is only \$5.00. The rest of it is for trail maintenance. We could make the actual registration ...

Discussion off mic.

**Representative Robin Weisz moved to further amend SB 2164 to 2 years and \$50. Vice Chairman Lisa Meier seconded the motion.**

**A voice vote was taken. The motion carried.**

**Representative Chris Olson:** As far as the trail tax that is being bundled into the registration fee, do those funds go into the same account? Why was there two sections of funding in the original statute, and now it is all being bundled into the registration fee? Does that affect the flow of these funds?

**Chairman Dan Ruby:** The Department of Transportation kept the \$5.00 and the \$35.00 went to the Snowmobile fund through Parks and Rec. If you look at the information from Matthew Gardner, it shows where the funding goes. Attachment #1 from morning minutes. In this bill the dollar amount would all go to Parks and Rec. for the snowmobile fund. Then the Department of Transportation would be completely out of it.

**Representative Gary Paur:** It is all going to Parks and Rec., but why are we deleting lines 19-21? Why aren't they just changing the amount that goes to the trails? Is that giving the Parks and Rec. the ability to keep \$20 for the registration and just send \$30 to trails?

**Chairman Dan Ruby:** I'm not sure. By them putting this up to \$65, does it all go to the Department of Transportation and get funneled back, or ... According to this, it all gets paid to the Department which is still the Department of Transportation, which is not what they wanted to do.

**Representative Chris Olson:** Current law states that \$35 will go to the snowmobile fund, and if this were to pass it doesn't say that any money will go to it. The sixty dollars will go to whoever the \$5.00 is currently going to.

**Representative Robin Weisz:** It doesn't even say that under current law. It is all going to the Department of Transportation, and they keep \$5.00 and send the rest on to Parks and Rec. This would not change any.

**Representative Marvin Nelson:** Section 39-24-05 says, "Fees from registration of snowmobiles must be deposited with the State Treasurer and credited to the Highway Tax Distribution Fund. The snowmobile trail tax must be deposited in the state snowmobile fund in the State Treasury." So, if we make the whole thing registration, it will go into the Highway Fund.



**Chairman Dan Ruby:** In SB 2139 it strikes the language with Highway Distribution Fund.

**Chairman Dan Ruby:** If we do this, we do need to take it out of the Department of Transportation section and probably move it to the proper section.

Pause recording for SB 2164 and worked on 2139 before completion of this bill.

Came back to SB 2164.

**Representative Robin Weisz moved to further amend SB 2164.**

**Vice Chairman Lisa Meier seconded the motion.**

(33-24-05)  
Transfer from Highway  
Distribution Fund,

**Chairman Dan Ruby** reviewed the amendment (22:00 minutes) and some existing language.

Discussion.

**A voice vote was taken on the amendment. The motion carried. (Vote sheet #2)**

**Representative Robin Weisz:** If we think that we aren't giving them enough, and they should have more, we could bump the 30 gallons of gas to 40 gallons. They calculate 30 gallons out of the gas tax, and the snowmobile group gets a portion of that tax. If we change 30 to 40, it might generate another \$30,000.

**Chairman Dan Ruby:** It is just the **tax** on 10 more gallons of gas which is \$0.23 per gallon.

**Representative Robin Weisz moved an amendment to change 30 gallons to 40 gallons.**

**Representative Marvin Nelson seconded the motion.**

**Chairman Dan Ruby:** The fuel tax generates \$85,000 per year going into the snowmobile fund, so if we increase it by 33% we would add about \$50,000 for the biennium. This would come from the State Highway Distribution Fund, so it won't cost the snowmobiler any more.

Discussion.

**A voice vote was taken. The motion carried. (Vote sheet #3)**

**Representative Marvin Nelson moved to further amend, Section 3, Page 2 change \$20.00 per year fee to \$25.00 for out-of-state riders.**

**Representative Kathy Hawken seconded the motion.**

**A voice vote was taken. The motion carried. (Vote sheet #4)**

**Representative Marvin Nelson moved a DO PASS as amended on SB 2164.**

**Representative Robin Weisz seconded the motion.**

**Representative Rick C. Becker:** I will be resisting the motion because I think that this is a group that represents snowmobilers and use the trails extensively when they are able to. But, there are a lot of snowmobilers that don't utilize those specific trails. So, they are asking the government to collect the fees from everyone to benefit the folks that the group associates with, when in fact they would have the opportunity to charge a fee for being a member of the individual groups. It is similar to motocross. The people that motocross could come to the government and ask for a motocross trail tax, so that we can collect money from all the people who have off-road bikes, whether they use the trails or not. Then the trails could be beautiful and kept up and paid for by everyone beyond those that use them.

**Representative Gary Paur:** Representative Rick C. Becker has a point, there are 15,500 registered snowmobiles. I wonder how many people belong to Snowmobile North Dakota.

**Representative Robin Weisz:** In response, Motocross parks are on private land and are privately run. They make revenue from races. These are public accessed trails. Some of them are leased from private land owners, but they are open to all of the public. I don't have an opportunity to show up at a motocross track and ride just because I have a motocross bike, because it is private. There are differences. When things have public access, then often times the government ends up kicking in to pay for it. In this case it isn't really the government, we are asking the groups to pay. It is not comparing apples to apples.

**Representative Chris Olson:** Maybe it would make more sense to have a sticker system that you could get a year's pass to the North Dakota trails, like the state parks. It may be a model that would equate to more equity.

**Representative Marvin Nelson:** Part of the reason behind the whole trail system is that we have land owners that don't appreciate a bunch of snowmobilers racing across their land. It is part of a system that provides people a place to go when there is snow. In this state we have not made it so all private land is automatically posted, but there are people that want to go there too. It is a system that has grown up. People can ride the highway ditches anyway, but the trouble is that there are hazards that aren't marked. It is inherently much more dangerous to ride a highway ditch that is not a marked trail. The whole system is basically a compromise to give snowmobilers a place to go that doesn't make someone else angry. I get regular complaints from people in the Turtle Mountains about stopping snowmobilers, and there is a trespassing law, but it is hard to catch someone that is going 100 mph across country. There is still a problem, but the trail system has made the problem substantially less. That is part of why I support all of this.

**Chairman Dan Ruby:** Because you have to have your snowmobile registered and pay every two years for a license, I think you need to have your "tags", unless you are riding on your own private land. That would include riding the ditch. So, you have to have that anyway because it is a law. Yes, the funds do get funneled toward the trails. I did hear that South Dakota diverts a portion of their lottery funds to their trails. They have extensive trails, and it is a tourism thing too.



House Transportation Committee

Sb 2164

03-13-15

Page 5

**A roll call vote was taken: Aye 10 Nay 3 Absent 1  
Representative Marvin Nelson will carry SB 2164.**

**Representative Marvin Nelson will carry SB 2164.**

March 13, 2015

*LAH*  
*3-13-15*

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2164

Page 1, line 1, replace the second "and" with a comma

Page 1, line 2, after "39-24-04" insert ", and section 39-24-05"

Page 1, line 2, after "fees" insert "and the state snowmobile fund"

Page 1, line 13, remove the overstrike over "five"

Page 1, line 13, remove "sixty"

Page 1, line 16, overstrike "In addition, in each year"

Page 1, overstrike lines 17 and 18

Page 1, line 19, overstrike "unsatisfied judgment fund."

Page 1, line 19, remove the overstrike over "~~For each snowmobile registered under the provisions of~~"

Page 1, line 20, remove the overstrike over "~~this chapter, there must be assessed a snowmobile trail tax in the amount of~~"

Page 1, line 20, after "~~thirty-five~~" insert "forty-five"

Page 1, line 21, remove the overstrike over "dollars."

Page 2, line 3, replace "twenty" with "twenty-five"

Page 2, line 7, replace "twenty" with "twenty-five"

Page 2, after line 8, insert:

**"SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-24-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

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

Fees from registration of snowmobiles must be deposited with the state treasurer and credited to the highway tax distribution fund. The snowmobile trail tax must be deposited in a state snowmobile fund in the state treasury. Additionally, an amount equal to the tax collected on ~~thirty~~forty gallons [~~44.3-56~~151.42 liters] of motor vehicle fuel multiplied by the number of collector snowmobiles and snowmobiles registered 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 such fund moneys it deems necessary for purposes of administering snowmobile safety programs and establishing and maintaining snowmobile facilities and programs."

Renumber accordingly

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2164**

House Transportation Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation: ☒ Adopt Amendment  
☐ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation  
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations  
☐ Place on Consent Calendar  
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Representative Robin Weisz Seconded By Representative Ben Hanson

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Ruby			Rep. Delmore		
Vice Chairman Meier			Rep. Hanson		
Rep. Rick Becker			Rep. Nelson		
Rep. Frantzvog					
Rep. Hawken					
Rep. Olson					
Rep. Owens					
Rep. Paur			VOICE VOTE		
Rep. Schatz			MOTION CARRIED		
Rep. Sukut					
Rep. Weisz					

Total (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

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

\$75.00 for 3 years

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2164**

House Transportation Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 15.0678.01001

Recommendation: ☒ Adopt Amendment  
☐ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation  
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations  
☐ Place on Consent Calendar  
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Representative Robin Weisz Seconded By Vice Chairman Lisa Meier

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Ruby			Rep. Delmore		
Vice Chairman Meier			Rep. Hanson		
Rep. Rick Becker			Rep. Nelson		
Rep. Frantzvog					
Rep. Hawken					
Rep. Olson					
Rep. Owens					
Rep. Paur			<b>VOICE VOTE</b>		
Rep. Schatz			<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>		
Rep. Sukut					
Rep. Weisz					

Total (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

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

2 years / \$50



**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2164**

House Transportation Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 15.0678.01001

Recommendation: ☒ Adopt Amendment  
☐ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation  
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations  
☐ Place on Consent Calendar  
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Representative Robin Weisz Seconded By Vice Chairman Lisa Meier

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Ruby			Rep. Delmore		
Vice Chairman Meier			Rep. Hanson		
Rep. Rick Becker			Rep. Nelson		
Rep. Frantzvog					
Rep. Hawken					
Rep. Olson					
Rep. Owens					
Rep. Paur			<b>VOICE VOTE</b>		
Rep. Schatz			<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>		
Rep. Sukut					
Rep. Weisz					

Total (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

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

REVIEW OF AMENDMENTS @ 22:00 MINUTES

39-24-05 Transfer from Highway Tax Distribution Fund

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2164**

House Transportation Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 15.0678.01001

Recommendation: ☒ Adopt Amendment  
☐ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation  
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations  
☐ Place on Consent Calendar  
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Representative Robin Weisz Seconded By Representative Marvin Nelson

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Ruby			Rep. Delmore		
Vice Chairman Meier			Rep. Hanson		
Rep. Rick Becker			Rep. Nelson		
Rep. Frantzvog					
Rep. Hawken					
Rep. Olson					
Rep. Owens					
Rep. Paur			<b>VOICE VOTE</b>		
Rep. Schatz			<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>		
Rep. Sukut					
Rep. Weisz					

Total (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

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

Change 30 to 40 gallons



**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2164**

House Transportation Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 15.0678.01001

Recommendation: ☒ Adopt Amendment  
☐ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation  
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations  
☐ Place on Consent Calendar  
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Representative Marvin Nelson Seconded By Representative Kathy Hawken

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Ruby			Rep. Delmore		
Vice Chairman Meier			Rep. Hanson		
Rep. Rick Becker			Rep. Nelson		
Rep. Frantzvog					
Rep. Hawken					
Rep. Olson					
Rep. Owens					
Rep. Paur			<b>VOICE VOTE</b>		
Rep. Schatz			<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>		
Rep. Sukut					
Rep. Weisz					

Total (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

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

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2164**

House Transportation Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 15.0678.01001

Recommendation: ☐ Adopt Amendment  
☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation  
☒ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations  
☐ Place on Consent Calendar

Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Representative Marvin Nelson Seconded By Representative Robin Weisz

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Ruby	X		Rep. Delmore	X	
Vice Chairman Meier	X		Rep. Hanson	X	
Rep. Rick Becker		X	Rep. Nelson	X	
Rep. Frantzvog	A				
Rep. Hawken	X				
Rep. Olson		X			
Rep. Owens	X				
Rep. Paur	X				
Rep. Schatz		X			
Rep. Sukut	X				
Rep. Weisz	X				

Total (Yes) 10 No 3

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Representative Marvin Nelson

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

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2164: Transportation Committee (Rep. Ruby, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (10 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2164 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, replace the second "and" with a comma

Page 1, line 2, after "39-24-04" insert ", and section 39-24-05"

Page 1, line 2, after "fees" insert "and the state snowmobile fund"

Page 1, line 13, remove the overstrike over "five"

Page 1, line 13, remove "sixty"

Page 1, line 16, overstrike "In addition, in each year"

Page 1, overstrike lines 17 and 18

Page 1, line 19, overstrike "unsatisfied judgment fund."

Page 1, line 19, remove the overstrike over "~~For each snowmobile registered under the provisions of~~"

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Renumber accordingly

**2015 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS**

**SB 2164**



# 2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2164  
4/1/2015  
Job # 25721

- ☐ Subcommittee  
☐ Conference Committee

*Marlyp Kienke*

### Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 2 of section 39-24-03, subsection 3 of section 39-24-04, and section 39-24-05 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to snowmobile fees and the state snowmobile fund.

### Minutes:

Chairman Jeff Delzer: Called the meeting for SB 2164

Rep. Ruby: Spoke on the bill. This bill is to increase the fee for Snowmobile registration. The \$5.00 that goes to Department of Transportation still stays the same with an increase of the fee from \$35.00 to \$45.00 per snowmobile. We also increase the fee from \$20.00 to \$25.00 for the Out of State permit trail permit. These funds go to the State Snowmobile Trail Fund. In section 3 we changed the gas tax from 30 gallons of gas to 40 gallon per snowmobile which has been drawn out of the Highway Distribution Fund and has been put into Trail Tax. As you can see there will be 214 for revenues and the expenditures are 120 in the first biennium and 195 the next biennium.

Chairman Jeff Delzer: Did you have any discussion regarding no snow this year, so these gallons will come out of highway vehicles this time?

Rep Ruby: It would come out only in the years that they register them. If they were registered last year they would get counted. We did have discussions about the funds and carryover from year to year. They still used the snowmobiles to run and will use up the 30 gallons.

Chairman Jeff Delzer: This is in the Parks and Rec. Brady how much do they have for expenditure appropriation authority?

Brady Larson: I will get you the number.

Chairman Jeff Delzer: This is why we have the bill as we do appropriate to Parks and Rec to do their snowmobile trail work. We will need to check and make sure how that works.



Rep Ruby: The previous bill that Rep Weisz presented was a cleanup bill so the committee chose to leave that where it was at. With that there was about \$300 thousand that Parks and Rec had in the Governor's Budget and was understood it is still in their budget at this time.

Chairman Jeff Delzer: Did you ask if there was a reduction in the 300 thousand in DOT?

Rep Ruby: DOT said it really wouldn't make a difference to them money wise or FTE wise.

Chairman Jeff Delzer: They did not reduce for what the Governor's Budget was.

Rep. Ruby: They did not think it was that costly to them. The 300 thousand would have mainly been for IT for Licensing.

Chairman Delzer: Closed the meeting.

# 2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2164  
4/7/2015  
Job # 25897

- ☐ Subcommittee  
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

*Kenneth M. Tashiro*

### Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 2 of section 39-24-03, subsection 3 of section 39-24-04, and section 39-24-05 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to snowmobile fees and the state snowmobile fund.

### Minutes:

**Chairman Jeff Delzer:** Called the meeting for SB 2164.

**Chairman Jeff Delzer:** Explained the bill. The fees for snowmobiles; it changes it to \$25 for park usage for Out-Of-State; it gives them 40 gallons of gas instead of 30 the tax is collected on; and it changes the trail tax to \$45 from \$35, it looks like. Fiscal note is 214 for revenues and expenditures are 120. Appropriations of 120. Committee members, any discussion? I know they did pass in the past, and I think the number was 2139, which actually went to conference today on who does the registration with snowmobiles. But I believe this is strictly a fee increase to try to get more money into the snowmobile fund in Parks and Rec. Committee members, what are your wishes?

**Rep. Boehning:** On Section 3, how is that money being collected out of the gas?

**Chairman Jeff Delzer:** What they do is take the number of snowmobiles registered, multiply that times the 23-cents per 40 gallons.

**Vice Chairman Keith Kempenich:** Truthfully, I think that's a pretty good number on that 40 gallons, but I'm not going to fight with it. I move a Do Pass on this. If they want to keep the trails going and stuff, we'll pass it out.

**Chairman Jeff Delzer:** We have a motion for a Do Pass. Is there a second?

**Representative Boehning:** I second.

**Chairman Jeff Delzer:** Discussion by the committee? Seeing none, the clerk will call the roll for a Do Pass on SB 2164.

ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN. YES: 15 NO: 6 ABSENT: 2

MOTION CARRIES.

Representative Marvin Nelson is the carrier.

**Chairman Jeff Delzer** closed the hearing on SB 2164.

Date: 4/7/15Roll Call Vote #: 1

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2164House: Appropriations Committee☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation: ☐ Adopt Amendment  
☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation  
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations  
☐ Place on Consent Calendar  
 Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By: KempenichSeconded By: Boehning

Representatives	Yes	No	Absent
Chairman Jeff Delzer		✓	
Vice Chairman Keith Kempenich	✓		
Representative Bellew			AB
Representative Brandenburg		✓	
Representative Boehning	✓		
Representative Dosch	✓		
Representative Kreidt	✓		
Representative Martinson	✓		
Representative Monson	✓		
Representative Nelson	✓		
Representative Pollert		✓	
Representative Sanford	✓		
Representative Schmidt	✓		
Representative Silbernagel	✓		
Representative Skarphol		✓	
Representative Streyle	✓		
Representative Thoreson		✓	
Representative Vigesaa		✓	
Representative Boe			AB
Representative Glassheim	✓		
Representative Guggisberg	✓		
Representative Hogan	✓		
Representative Holman	✓		
TOTALS	15	6	2

Motion  
Carries

Floor Assignment: Rep. MARVIN NELSON

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

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2164, as amended: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Delzer, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (15 YEAS, 6 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2164, as amended, was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.



**2015 TESTIMONY**

**SB 2164**



Snowmobile North Dakota

Laura Forbes, President  
Keri Wanner, Executive Director

1600 East Century Avenue, Suite 3  
Bismarck, ND 58503-0649  
Phone 701-328-5377  
Fax 701-328-5363  
E-mail [info@snowmobilend.org](mailto:info@snowmobilend.org)  
[www.snowmobilend.org](http://www.snowmobilend.org)

**TESTIMONY – SENATE BILL 2164  
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 22, 2015 – 10:30 AM  
LEWIS AND CLARK ROOM**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Transportation Committee, my name is Todd Thronson and I am the Trail Inspector for Snowmobile North Dakota which represents an association of snowmobile enthusiasts in North Dakota. I appear today in support of Senate Bill 2164 relating to snowmobile registration fees.

Snowmobile North Dakota is contracted by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department to manage the state snowmobile trails. Our organization works with 36 snowmobile clubs, 14 trail associations and hundreds of statewide volunteers to manage 2,800 miles of snowmobile trail. With the help of the snowmobile clubs and associations, Snowmobile North Dakota secures land leases and trail insurance, inspects the state snowmobile trails, provides weekly trail reports and processes the annual trail expenses.

Every five years the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department in cooperation with Snowmobile North Dakota conduct a five year strategic plan. The current North Dakota Snowmobile Program Strategic Plan is for the period of 2013-2017. The plan helps our organizations understand the current needs of snowmobile enthusiasts and program management. Three stakeholder groups were interviewed or surveyed to develop the plan. This included surveying the registered snowmobile owners in the state; surveying the clubs, trail associations and dealers; and interviewing the snowmobile program's staff members. Key findings showed 35% of the registered snowmobilers in North Dakota are members of Snowmobile North Dakota. Respondents also felt on average that \$31.50 per year is a reasonable and appropriate snowmobile registration fee in North Dakota. For your reference, a copy of these key findings has been attached.

The 2013-2017 strategic plan highlights six Focus Areas which cover everything from organizational development and trail management to legislative recommendations. Focus Area one covers trail management and includes seven objectives. Objectives include developing materials for land owners to assist in procurement of easements, grooming equipment funding, and equipping groomers with a GPS tracking system to streamline the trail expense reimbursement process and provide the public with daily trail information. A copy of Focus Area one has been included for your reference.

Focus Area five highlights safety education and enforcement objectives. Safety education objectives include hands on training development and public service announcements for trail safety and certification needs. Enforcement objectives include improving law enforcement presence and developing grant programs for local law enforcement agencies to assist with snowmobile enforcement. A copy of Focus Area five has been included for your reference.

North Dakota offers three types of snowmobile registrations which includes resident, non-resident and collectors. Senate Bill 2164 increases the resident and non-resident snowmobile registrations. The resident snowmobile registration fee would increase from \$40 per biennium to \$60 following the recommendation in the strategic plan. The non-resident snowmobile registration fee would increase from \$15 per year to \$20. These increases will help the snowmobile program achieve the trail management, safety education and enforcement objectives outlined in Focus Area one and five in the strategic plan.

Snowmobile North Dakota has also conducted research with the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department and provided a ten year comparison of the state's annual snowmobile trail expenses. Over a ten year period insurance costs have increased 34% and fuel costs have increased 57%. Please refer to graph on the attached document, titled 2015 Legislative Recommendations. Diesel fuel is needed to operate the state grooming equipment and has not seen the same reduction in prices as gasoline. The Senate Bill 2164 will also assist with these increased expenses and provide additional opportunities. This would also allow for maintaining existing trails more frequently and provide a resource to address future trail needs.

I have also included letters of support from the president and vice president of the Snowmobile North Dakota Board of Directors for your reference.

Senate Bill 2164 is a bill with the full support of the snowmobiling community. Snowmobile North Dakota recommends a vote of Do Pass relating to snowmobile registration fees.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I would like to thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 2164 and I will take any questions from the committee.

# Key Findings

## North Dakota Snowmobile Strategic Plan 2013-2017

### Snowmobile Organization Membership

- 65.1% were not members of a state snowmobile organization
- 38% felt that snowmobile trails was the purpose of statewide snowmobile organizations
- 40% felt it was to promote snowmobiling was the purpose of statewide snowmobile organizations
- 22% of respondents felt that trails was the largest benefit of a snowmobile organizations
- 47.6% felt that \$20-\$30 was an appropriate amount to pay per year for dues to a statewide snowmobile organization
- 27.1% felt that \$10-\$20 was appropriate.

### Safety Education

- 93% of households with children had 1-2 children between 12-18 years old who go snowmobiling during a typical season
- 94.2% of households with children had 1-2 children under 12 years old who go snowmobiling during a typical season
- 58.9% of children did not have a snowmobile certificate or operators license when they rode
- 86% of survey respondents felt that hands-on training was very important
- 77% felt that multimedia would not be able to replace hands on training.

### Riding Preferences

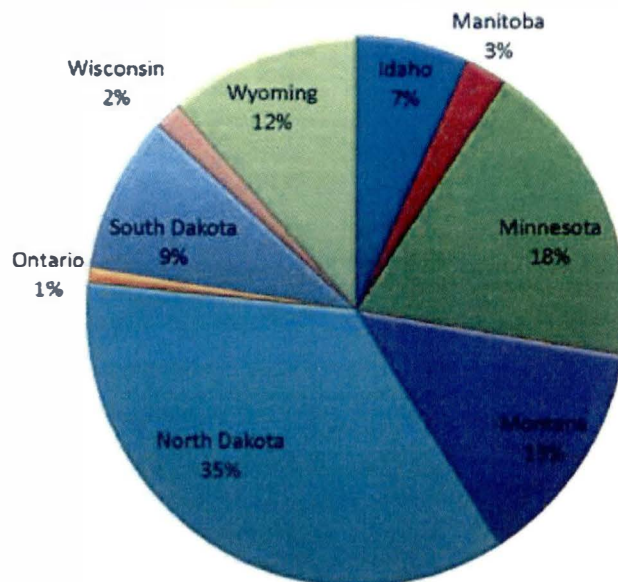
- 68.9% did more than 60% of their riding in North Dakota
- 91.9% were satisfied or very satisfied with their encounters with law enforcement in North Dakota
- 61% will not travel more than 300 miles to snowmobile

Respondents felt on average that \$31.50 per year is a reasonable and appropriate snowmobile registration fee for North Dakota

94.2% of households with children had 1-2 children under 12 years old who go snowmobiling during a typical season

22% of respondents felt that trails was the largest benefit of state snowmobile organizations

### State/Province Riding Preferences





1-4 SB 2164 1-22-15



## Focus Area #1 – Trail Management

### North Dakota Snowmobile Strategic Plan 2013-2017

North Dakota has approximately 2,800 miles of trail that is managed by Snowmobile North Dakota through a contract with the North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department. This work is performed by Snowmobile North Dakota and 14 groomers & 18 implements owned by the North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department. The groomer operators are paid employees but the remainder of the work is performed by volunteers. Trail administration is by far the biggest component of the program and the research indicates that providing trails are the overriding purpose of Snowmobile North Dakota. The concerns address in all the research focused around the preservation of the trail system.

### Objectives

1. Develop materials for land owners to assist in procurement of easements that addresses more than just recreational immunity.
2. Devise a groomer replacement schedule more consistent with future funding.
3. Snowmobile North Dakota must increase their involvement in snowmobile events and activities to enhance volunteer recruitment.
4. Equip groomers with GPS tracking system to provide analytic repurposing and information dissemination.
5. Place priority on those segments of the trail system that are maintained and that are open most often.
6. Develop a system to insure maintenance on the groomers are current and completed properly.
7. Strengthen relationship with Tourism Division to promote snowmobile opportunities in North Dakota.



## Focus Area #5 – Safety Education & Enforcement

North Dakota Snowmobile Strategic Plan 2013-2017

The North Dakota Parks & Recreation is legislatively responsible to provide safety certifications for those over the age of 12 that do not have a driver's license in order for them to ride. This responsibility has grown over the years to a safety program that advocates safe riding for both snowmobiles and off highway vehicles. Furthermore the agency has jurisdiction over and obligation for enforcing the snowmobile laws of North Dakota.

### Objectives

#### Safety Education

1. Fill the need for safety training by businesses.
2. Advance models to allow for hands on training.
3. Develop a program to provide safety education for those under 12.
4. Produce Public Service Announcements for trail safety and certification needs.

#### Enforcement

1. Develop a grant program for local law enforcement agencies.
2. Further commit North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department resources to improve law enforcement presence.
3. Coordinate with local clubs to provide enforcement at more events then just statewide events.
4. Investigate holding statewide registration saturations.
5. Actively promote the agency's training program for local law on snowmobile laws.



Snowmobile North Dakota

Laura Forbes, President  
Keri Wanner, Executive Director

1600 East Century Avenue, Suite 3  
Bismarck, ND 58503-0649  
Phone 701-328-5377  
Fax 701-328-5363  
E-mail [info@snowmobilend.org](mailto:info@snowmobilend.org)  
[www.snowmobilend.org](http://www.snowmobilend.org)

## 2015 Legislative Recommendations North Dakota Snowmobile Trail Program

### Legislative Recommendations for 2015:

- Increase the snowmobile registration fee to \$60 per two year period (currently \$40).
- Transfer the snowmobile registration administration from the North Dakota Department of Transportation to the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department.
- In order to enhance education opportunities and promote a fun family activity; snowmobile riders ages 10 and 11 may ride on public property including the state snowmobile trail system, as long as they have been certified by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department and are riding in the presence of a parent or guardian.

*The overall snowmobile trail program costs have increased 43% since the last registration fee increase in 2003.*

### Demand for Snowmobile Recreation:

- 93% of North Dakota households feel outdoor recreation is important.
- 20% of outdoor recreation enthusiasts have a high interest in snowmobiling.

### Economic Impact of Snowmobile Recreation:

- The average snowmobiler spends \$4,000 each year on snowmobile related recreation.
- Snowmobilers are caring neighbors and raise over \$3 million for charity annually.
- North Dakota snowmobilers spend seven nights a year in a lodge to enjoy the recreation.
- Snowmobilers in North Dakota spend over \$800 annually on parts, apparel and gear.
- North Dakota snowmobilers travel costs exceed over \$1,200 annually.
- The economic impact of snowmobiling in the United States is \$26 billion annually; worldwide its \$39 billion.

### 2013-2017 North Dakota Snowmobile Program Strategic Plan Focus Areas:

- Equip groomers with GPS tracking system to provide analytic reporting for trail reimbursements and trail status reporting (if the trail has been groomed or not).
- Increased funding for the snowmobile program to assist with trail maintenance expenses.
- Transfer the snowmobile registration administration from the North Dakota Department of Transportation to the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department.
- Require that dealers register snowmobiles at the time of purchase.
- Reduce the allowable riding age to include under 12 to enhance education opportunities.
- Produce Public Service Announcements for trail safety and certification needs.

### Did You Know:

- *It is common for a state's natural resource agency to manage the licensing of snowmobiles.*
- *The average annual snowmobile registration fee is \$44.86.*
- *10 states allow youth under the age of 12 to ride snowmobiles on public lands.*

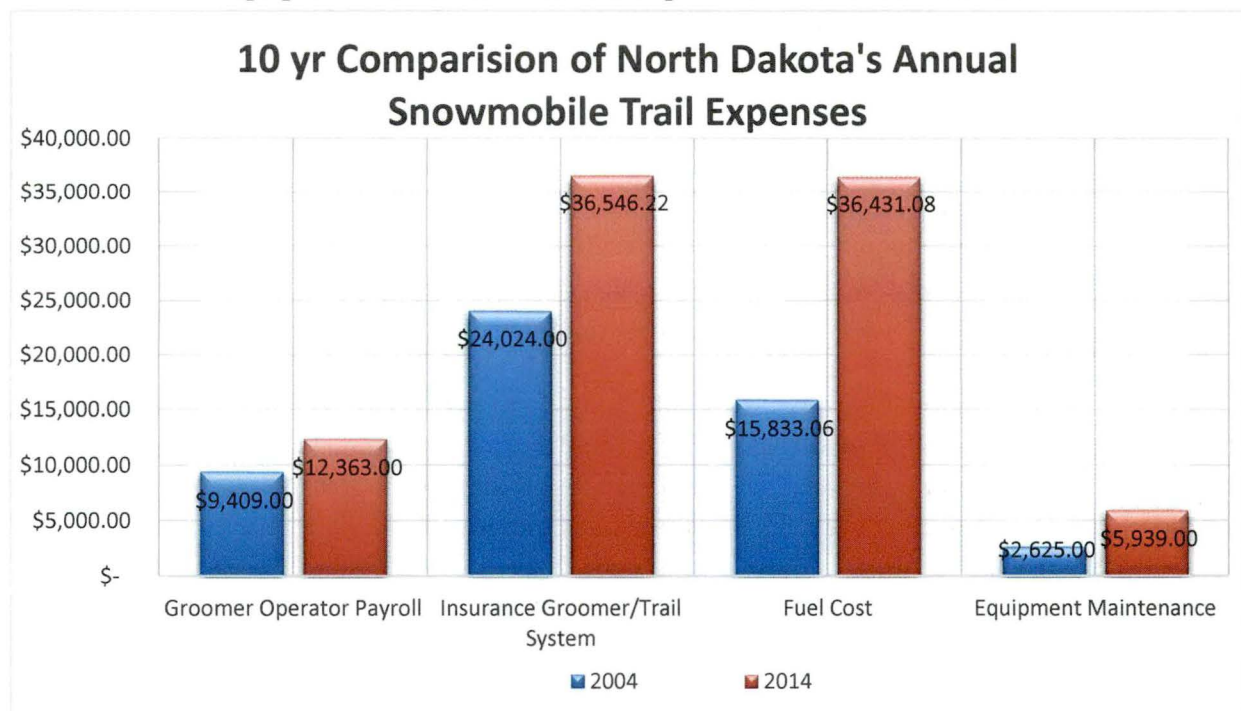
Explore ND's 2,800 miles of snowmobile trails!



**Snowmobile North Dakota (SND) is a non-profit organization that oversees the recreation of snowmobiling across the state. The organization is contracted by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department to manage the state trail system. The state trail system consists of over 2,800 miles of groomed trails and exists in 27 counties. The trail program relies heavily on snowmobile registration funding and on volunteer efforts to conduct trail maintenance.**

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Snowmobile Registration Administrator</u>	<u>Resident Registration Fee</u>	<u>Non-Resident Registration Fee</u>	<u>Require Title</u>	<u>Allow Youth Under 12 to Ride</u>
Colorado	Colorado Parks & Wildlife	\$30.25/Year, \$0.25 goes to Search & Rescue	\$30.25/Year, \$0.25 goes to Search & Rescue	No	Yes
Idaho	Dept. of Parks & Recreation	\$32.50/year	\$32.50/year	Yes	Yes
Iowa	Iowa DNR	\$17.75/year plus a \$17.75/year user permit	\$17.75/year	No	Yes
Manitoba	Dept. of Justice (MB Public Insurance)	\$15/year plus a \$125/year user permit	\$125/year or \$60.50/7 Days	No	Yes
Michigan	Dept. of State, Sec. of State Offices	\$30 for 3 years plus a \$45/year user permit	\$45/year	No	Yes
Minnesota	MN DNR	\$75 for 3 years for residents plus a \$35/year user permit	\$35/year	No	Yes
Montana	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$60.50 for as long as you own the snowmobile	\$25/year	Yes	Yes
North Dakota	ND DOT	\$40/2 years	\$15/year	Yes	No
Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan Gov. Insurance	\$70/year (pursuing legislation to increase to \$90/year)	No	No	No
South Dakota	Dept. of Revenue	\$10/year	\$40/5 Days	No	Yes
Wisconsin	WI DNR	\$30 for 2 years	\$35/year	No	Yes
Wyoming	WY State Parks Cultural Resources & Trails – Revenue Section	\$5/year plus a \$20/year user permit	\$25/year	Yes	Yes

***In 10 years, fuel costs have increased 57% to establish the state snowmobile trail system. Equipment and trail insurance expenses have increased 34%.***



**Resources:**

- 2013-2017 North Dakota State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)
- International Snowmobile Manufacturer's Association Snowmobiling Fact Book
- North Dakota Snowmobile Program Strategic Plan 2013-2017

January 16, 2015

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

I am writing a letter in support of Senate bill 2164. I work with 36 snowmobile clubs throughout the state and 14 trail associations. I volunteer many hours to manage the trail system, so all snowmobile enthusiasts can enjoy the trail system. We work with landowners to have the trail system go through their land.

The fee to register a snowmobile every two years is \$40. We are asking to raise the registration to \$60.00 every two years per snowmobile. The non-resident snowmobile registration fee is \$15 a year and we are asking to increase the fee to \$20 a year. By raising the rate it will help fund the trails, safety education and enforcement. Snowmobile North Dakota has conducted research showing the expenses for maintaining the trail system. Over the past ten years the cost has increased.

The snowmobile community is in full support of Senate Bill 2164 and we recommend you vote for increasing the fees.

I would like to thank you for your consideration of the Senate Bill 2164.

Sincerely,

*Laura Forbes*

Laura Forbes

President of Snowmobile North Dakota

1-9 1/22/15  
January 19, 2015

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

I am Sheri Hoffmann, vice-president of Snowmobile North Dakota. I am writing today to ask for your support of Senate Bill 2164 relating to snowmobile registration fees.

Snowmobile North Dakota is contracted by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department to manage the state snowmobile trails. We work with 36 snowmobile clubs and hundreds of volunteers to manage 2,800 miles of snowmobile trails. Every 5 years our organization, along with North Dakota Parks and Recreation, conducts a strategic plan. The current plan is for 2013-2017. To develop the plan, we surveyed registered snowmobile owners, snowmobile clubs and dealers, and our staff members. Key findings showed 35% of registered snowmobile owners are members of Snowmobile North Dakota and they felt on average, \$31.50 per year would be a reasonable registration fee per year.

Senate Bill 2164 increases both the resident and non-resident registration fees. The resident fee would increase from \$40 a biennium to \$60 and the non-resident fee would increase from \$15 a year to \$20. These increases will help the program achieve our objectives in trail management, safety education, and enforcement as outlined in the strategic plan. It would also assist with increasing expenses for diesel, parts and repairs of our equipment.

Senate Bill 2164 is a bill with full support of the snowmobiling community. Snowmobile North Dakota recommends a vote of Do Pass relating to snowmobile registration fees.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sheri Hoffmann  
Vice-President  
Snowmobile North Dakota



**SB 2164:**

Senate Transportation Committee  
Lewis and Clark Room, 10:30 A.M.  
Thursday, January 22nd, 2015

Mr. Chairman, members of the Senate Transportation Committee, my name is Matthew Gardner, Recreation Division Manager for the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD). I appear today in neutral capacity for SB 2164.

Under North Dakota Century Code § 39-24-05, the NDPRD is responsible to administer the state snowmobile program, this includes managing the State Snowmobile Fund, coordinating the state snowmobile safety programs, out-of-state snowmobile permitting and serve as the lead agency for snowmobile enforcement. Since 1989 the NDPRD has contracted with Snowmobile North Dakota, the state's snowmobile association, to maintain the state snowmobile trail system. This partnership has proven to be beneficial to the NDPRD as well as the snowmobiling community.

SB 2164 references an increase in the snowmobile registration fees for both residents and non-residents. Here are what these registration dollars cover: Fuel for groomers, groomer operator payroll, program administration, long range planning, trail signs, grooming equipment, groomer repairs and service, trail and equipment insurance, land leases, trail maps and snowmobile trail enforcement.

The last registration increase occurred in the 03-05 biennium and since that time program expenses have seen an average increase of 47%. In response to rising expenses the snowmobile program has reduced eligible reimbursable expenses and has reduced trail miles within the state.

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

SB2164  
3-12-15

#1



Snowmobile North Dakota

Laura Forbes, President  
Keri Wanner, Executive Director

1600 East Century Avenue, Suite 3  
Bismarck, ND 58503-0649  
Phone 701-328-5377  
Fax 701-328-5363  
E-mail [info@snowmobilend.org](mailto:info@snowmobilend.org)  
[www.snowmobilend.org](http://www.snowmobilend.org)

**TESTIMONY – SENATE BILL 2164  
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
MARCH 12, 2015 – 10:00 AM  
FORT TOTTEN ROOM**

1 of 7

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Transportation Committee, my name is Todd Thronson and I am the Trail Inspector for Snowmobile North Dakota which represents an association of snowmobile enthusiasts in the state. I appear today in support of Senate Bill 2164 relating to snowmobile registration fees.

Snowmobile North Dakota is contracted by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department to manage the state snowmobile trails. Our organization works with 36 snowmobile clubs, 14 trail associations and hundreds of statewide volunteers to manage 2,800 miles of snowmobile trail. With the help of the snowmobile clubs and associations, Snowmobile North Dakota secures land leases and trail insurance, inspects the state snowmobile trails, provides weekly trail reports and processes the annual trail expenses.

Every five years the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department in cooperation with Snowmobile North Dakota conduct a five year strategic plan. The current North Dakota Snowmobile Program Strategic Plan is for the period of 2013-2017. The plan helps our organizations understand the current needs of snowmobile enthusiasts and program management. Three stakeholder groups were interviewed or surveyed to develop the plan. This included surveying the registered snowmobile owners in the state; surveying the clubs, trail associations and dealers; and interviewing the snowmobile program's staff members. Key findings showed 35% of the registered snowmobilers in the state are members of Snowmobile North Dakota. Respondents also felt on average that \$31.50 per year is a reasonable and appropriate snowmobile registration fee in North Dakota. For your reference, a copy of these key findings has been attached.

The 2013-2017 strategic plan highlights six Focus Areas which cover everything from organizational development and trail management to legislative recommendations. Focus Area one covers trail management and includes seven objectives. Objectives include developing materials for land owners to assist in procurement of easements, grooming equipment funding, and equipping groomers with a GPS tracking system to streamline the trail expense reimbursement process and provide the public with daily trail information. A copy of Focus Area one has been included for your reference.

Focus Area five highlights safety education and enforcement objectives. Safety education objectives include hands on training development and public service announcements for trail safety and certification needs. Enforcement objectives include improving law enforcement presence and developing grant programs for local law enforcement agencies to assist with snowmobile enforcement. A copy of Focus Area five has been included for your reference.

Explore ND's 2,800 miles of snowmobile trails!

North Dakota offers three types of snowmobile registrations which includes resident, non-resident and collectors. Senate Bill 2164 increases the resident and non-resident snowmobile registrations. The resident snowmobile registration fee would increase from \$40 per biennium to \$60 following the recommendation in the strategic plan. The non-resident snowmobile registration fee would increase from \$15 per year to \$20. These increases will help the snowmobile program achieve the trail management, safety education and enforcement objectives outlined in Focus Area one and five in the strategic plan.

Snowmobile North Dakota has also conducted research with the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department and provided a ten year comparison of the state's annual snowmobile trail expenses. Over a ten year period insurance costs have increased 34% and fuel costs have increased 57%. Please refer to the graph on the attached document, titled 2015 Legislative Recommendations. Diesel fuel is needed to operate the state grooming equipment and has not seen the same reduction in prices as gasoline. Senate Bill 2164 will also assist with these increased expenses and provide additional opportunities. This would also allow for maintaining existing trails more frequently and provide a resource to address future trail needs.

I have also included letters of support from the president and vice president of the Snowmobile North Dakota Board of Directors for your reference.

Senate Bill 2164 is a bill with the full support of the snowmobiling community. Snowmobile North Dakota recommends a vote of Do Pass relating to snowmobile registration fees.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I would like to thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 2164 and I will take any questions from the committee.

# Key Findings

3 of 7

## North Dakota Snowmobile Strategic Plan 2013-2017

### Snowmobile Organization Membership

- 65.1% were not members of a state snowmobile organization
- 38% felt that snowmobile trails was the purpose of statewide snowmobile organizations
- 40% felt it was to promote snowmobiling was the purpose of statewide snowmobile organizations
- 22% of respondents felt that trails was the largest benefit of a snowmobile organizations
- 47.6% felt that \$20-\$30 was an appropriate amount to pay per year for dues to a statewide snowmobile organization
- 27.1% felt that \$10-\$20 was appropriate.

### Safety Education

- 93% of households with children had 1-2 children between 12-18 years old who go snowmobiling during a typical season
- 94.2% of households with children had 1-2 children under 12 years old who go snowmobiling during a typical season
- 58.9% of children did not have a snowmobile certificate or operators license when they rode
- 86% of survey respondents felt that hands-on training was very important
- 77% felt that multimedia would not be able to replace hands on training.

### Riding Preferences

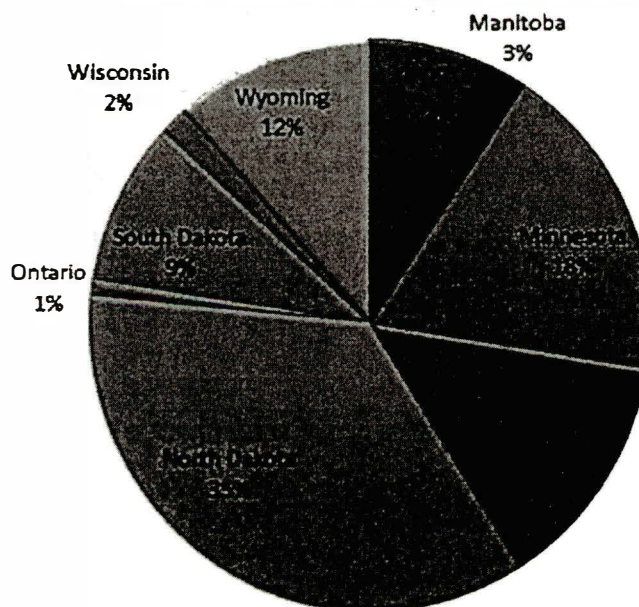
- 68.9% did more than 60% of their riding in North Dakota
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Respondents felt on average that \$31.50 per year is a reasonable and appropriate snowmobile registration fee for North Dakota

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22% of respondents felt that trails was the largest benefit of state snowmobile organizations

### State/Province Riding Preferences





## Focus Area #1 – Trail Management

### North Dakota Snowmobile Strategic Plan 2013-2017

North Dakota has approximately 2,800 miles of trail that is managed by Snowmobile North Dakota through a contract with the North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department. This work is performed by Snowmobile North Dakota and 14 groomers & 18 implements owned by the North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department. The groomer operators are paid employees but the remainder of the work is performed by volunteers. Trail administration is by far the biggest component of the program and the research indicates that providing trails are the overriding purpose of Snowmobile North Dakota. The concerns address in all the research focused around the preservation of the trail system.

### Objectives

1. Develop materials for land owners to assist in procurement of easements that addresses more than just recreational immunity.
2. Devise a groomer replacement schedule more consistent with future funding.
3. Snowmobile North Dakota must increase their involvement in snowmobile events and activities to enhance volunteer recruitment.
4. Equip groomers with GPS tracking system to provide analytic repurposing and information dissemination.
5. Place priority on those segments of the trail system that are maintained and that are open most often.
6. Develop a system to insure maintenance on the groomers are current and completed properly.
7. Strengthen relationship with Tourism Division to promote snowmobile opportunities in North Dakota.



## Focus Area #5 – Safety Education & Enforcement

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The North Dakota Parks & Recreation is legislatively responsible to provide safety certifications for those over the age of 12 that do not have a driver's license in order for them to ride. This responsibility has grown over the years to a safety program that advocates safe riding for both snowmobiles and off highway vehicles. Furthermore the agency has jurisdiction over and obligation for enforcing the snowmobile laws of North Dakota.

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1. Fill the need for safety training by businesses.
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3. Coordinate with local clubs to provide enforcement at more events then just statewide events.
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6 of 7



Snowmobile North Dakota

Laura Forbes, President  
Keri Wanner, Executive Director

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## 2015 Legislative Recommendations North Dakota Snowmobile Trail Program

### Legislative Recommendations for 2015:

- Increase the snowmobile registration fee to \$60 per two year period (currently \$40).
- Transfer the snowmobile registration administration from the North Dakota Department of Transportation to the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department.
- In order to enhance education opportunities and promote a fun family activity; snowmobile riders ages 10 and 11 may ride on public property including the state snowmobile trail system, as long as they have been certified by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department and are riding in the presence of a parent or guardian.

*The overall snowmobile trail program costs have increased 43% since the last registration fee increase in 2003.*

### Demand for Snowmobile Recreation:

- 93% of North Dakota households feel outdoor recreation is important.
- 20% of outdoor recreation enthusiasts have a high interest in snowmobiling.

### Economic Impact of Snowmobile Recreation:

- The average snowmobiler spends \$4,000 each year on snowmobile related recreation.
- Snowmobilers are caring neighbors and raise over \$3 million for charity annually.
- North Dakota snowmobilers spend seven nights a year in a lodge to enjoy the recreation.
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- The economic impact of snowmobiling in the United States is \$26 billion annually; worldwide its \$39 billion.

### 2013-2017 North Dakota Snowmobile Program Strategic Plan Focus Areas:

- Equip groomers with GPS tracking system to provide analytic reporting for trail reimbursements and trail status reporting (if the trail has been groomed or not).
- Increased funding for the snowmobile program to assist with trail maintenance expenses.
- Transfer the snowmobile registration administration from the North Dakota Department of Transportation to the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department.
- Require that dealers register snowmobiles at the time of purchase.
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- Produce Public Service Announcements for trail safety and certification needs.

### Did You Know:

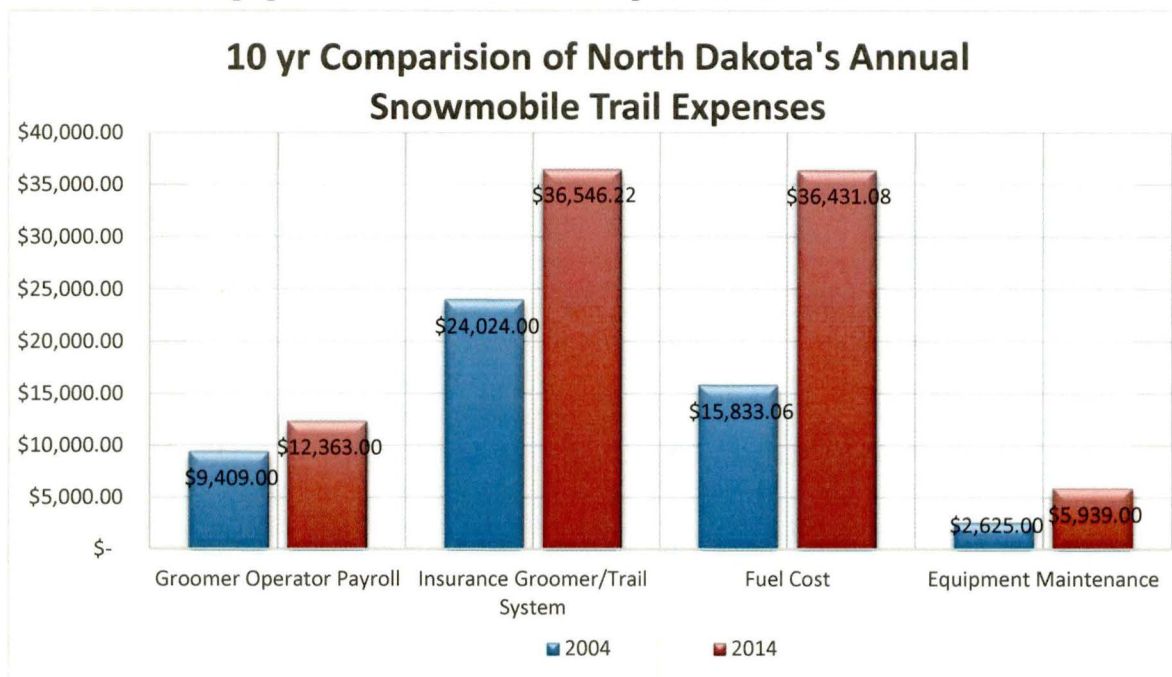
- *It is common for a state's natural resource agency to manage the licensing of snowmobiles.*
- *The average annual snowmobile registration fee is \$44.86.*
- *10 states allow youth under the age of 12 to ride snowmobiles on public lands.*

Explore ND's 2,800 miles of snowmobile trails!

**Snowmobile North Dakota (SND) is a non-profit organization that oversees the recreation of snowmobiling across the state. The organization is contracted by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department to manage the state trail system. The state trail system consists of over 2,800 miles of groomed trails and exists in 27 counties. The trail program relies heavily on snowmobile registration funding and on volunteer efforts to conduct trail maintenance.**

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Snowmobile Registration Administrator</u>	<u>Registration Fee</u>	<u>Require Title</u>	<u>Allow Youth Under 12 to Ride</u>
<b>Colorado</b>	Colorado Parks & Wildlife	\$30.25/Year, .25 goes to Search & Rescue	No	Yes
<b>Idaho</b>	Dept. of Parks & Recreation	\$32.50/year	Yes	Yes
<b>Iowa</b>	Iowa DNR	\$17.75/year plus a \$17.75/year user permit	No	Yes
<b>Manitoba</b>	Dept. of Justice (MB Public Insurance)	\$15/year plus a \$125/year user permit	No	Yes
<b>Michigan</b>	Dept. of State, Sec. of State Offices	\$30 for 3 years plus a \$45/year user permit	No	Yes
<b>Minnesota</b>	MN DNR	\$75 for 3 years for residents plus a \$35/year user permit	No	Yes
<b>Montana</b>	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$60.50 for as long as you own the snowmobile	Yes	Yes
<b>North Dakota</b>	ND DOT	\$40/2 years	Yes	No
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	Saskatchewan Gov. Insurance	\$70/year (pursuing legislation to increase to \$90/year)	No	No
<b>South Dakota</b>	Dept. of Revenue	\$10/year	No	Yes
<b>Wisconsin</b>	WI DNR	\$30 for 2 years	No	Yes
<b>Wyoming</b>	WY State Parks Cultural Resources & Trails – Revenue Section	\$5/year plus a \$20/year user permit	Yes	Yes

***In 10 years, fuel costs have increased 57% to establish the state snowmobile trail system. Equipment and trail insurance expenses have increased 34%.***



**Resources:**

- 2013-2017 North Dakota State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)
- International Snowmobile Manufacturer's Association Snowmobiling Fact Book
- North Dakota Snowmobile Program Strategic Plan 2013-2017



#2  
March 11, 2015

SB 2164  
3-12-15

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the House Transportation Committee,

I am writing a letter in support of Senate bill 2164. I work with 36 snowmobile clubs throughout the state and 14 trail associations. I volunteer many hours to manage the trail system, so all snowmobile enthusiasts can enjoy the trail system. We work with landowners to have the trail system go through their land.

The fee to register a snowmobile every two years is \$40. We are asking to raise the registration to \$60.00 every two years per snowmobile. The non-resident snowmobile registration fee is \$15 a year and we are asking to increase the fee to \$20 a year. By raising the rate it will help fund the trails, safety education and enforcement. Snowmobile North Dakota has conducted research showing the expenses for maintaining the trail system. Over the past ten years the cost has increased.

The snowmobile community is in full support of Senate Bill 2164 and we recommend you vote for increasing the fees.

I would like to thank you for your consideration of the Senate Bill 2164.

Sincerely,

*Laura Forbes*

Laura Forbes

President of Snowmobile North Dakota

#3 SB 2164  
3-12-15

March 11, 2015

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Transportation Committee,

I am Sheri Hoffmann, vice-president of Snowmobile North Dakota. I am writing today to ask for your support of Senate Bill 2164 relating to snowmobile registration fees.

Snowmobile North Dakota is contracted by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department to manage the state snowmobile trails. We work with 36 snowmobile clubs and hundreds of volunteers to manage 2,800 miles of snowmobile trails. Every 5 years our organization, along with North Dakota Parks and Recreation, conducts a strategic plan. The current plan is for 2013-2017. To develop the plan, we surveyed registered snowmobile owners, snowmobile clubs and dealers, and our staff members. Key findings showed 35% of registered snowmobile owners are members of Snowmobile North Dakota and they felt on average, \$31.50 per year would be a reasonable registration fee per year.

Senate Bill 2164 increases both the resident and non-resident registration fees. The resident fee would increase from \$40 a biennium to \$60 and the non-resident fee would increase from \$15 a year to \$20. These increases will help the program achieve our objectives in trail management, safety education, and enforcement as outlined in the strategic plan. It would also assist with increasing expenses for diesel, parts and repairs of our equipment.

Senate Bill 2164 is a bill with full support of the snowmobiling community. Snowmobile North Dakota recommends a vote of Do Pass relating to snowmobile registration fees.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Sheri Hoffmann*

Sheri Hoffmann  
Vice-President  
Snowmobile North Dakota



#4  
SB 2164  
3-12-15

**SB 2164:**

Senate Transportation Committee  
Fort Totten Room, 10:00 A.M.  
Thursday, March 12th, 2015

Mr. Chairman, members of the House Transportation Committee, my name is Matthew Gardner, Recreation Division Manager for the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD). I appear today in neutral capacity for SB 2164.

Under North Dakota Century Code § 39-24-05, the NDPRD is responsible to administer the state snowmobile program, this includes managing the State Snowmobile Fund, coordinating the state snowmobile safety programs, out-of-state snowmobile permitting and serve as the lead agency for snowmobile enforcement. Since 1989 the NDPRD has contracted with Snowmobile North Dakota, the state's snowmobile association, to maintain the state snowmobile trail system. This partnership has proven to be beneficial to the NDPRD as well as the snowmobiling community.

SB 2164 references an increase in the snowmobile registration fees for both residents and non-residents. Here are what these registration dollars cover: Fuel for groomers, groomer operator payroll, program administration, long range planning, trail signs, grooming equipment, groomer repairs and service, trail and equipment insurance, land leases, trail maps and snowmobile trail enforcement.

The last registration increase occurred in the 03-05 biennium and since that time program expenses have seen an average increase of 47%. In response to rising expenses the snowmobile program has reduced eligible reimbursable expenses and has reduced trail miles within the state.

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

#1

SB 2164

3-13-15

House Transportation Committee

Committee request on current snowmobile fees:

**Current Biennial Snowmobile Registration Fee: \$40**

Breakout: \$35 Snowmobile Trail Tax / \$5 Registration Fee

\*\$35 is deposited into the State Snowmobile Fund and \$5 NDDOT retains for costs associated with registering snowmobiles.

**Dealer Safety \$5**

The \$5 safety fee is collect from dealers on each snowmobile sold. These funds are deposited into the State Snowmobile Fund and are used to offset some of the costs associated with the youth snowmobile safety program

**Snowmobile Gas Tax – a percentage of the state gas tax based on 30 gallons of fuel used for each registered snowmobile**

\* Average of \$85,000 per year.

Matthew Gardner  
North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department  
Recreation Division Manager  
1600 E. Century Ave. Suite 3  
Bismarck, ND 58503  
701-328-5369