

Fifty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1342

Introduced by

Representatives Weisz, Drovdal, Ruby

Senator Trenbeath

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 59 of section 39-01-01 and sections
2 39-29-01, 39-29-01.1, 39-29-02, 39-29-03, 39-29-04, 39-29-05, 39-29-06, 39-29-07, 39-29-08,
3 39-29-09, 51-20-01, and 57-40.3-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to all-terrain
4 vehicles.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 59 of section 39-01-01 of the North Dakota
7 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

8 59. "Recreational vehicle" means any motorcycle not qualified for registration,
9 ~~all-terrain off-highway~~ vehicle, snowmobile, vessel, or personal watercraft.

10 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-29-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
11 amended and reenacted as follows:

12 **39-29-01. Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

13 1. ~~"All-terrain vehicle" means any motorized off-highway vehicle fifty inches [1270.00~~
14 ~~millimeters] or less in width, having a dry weight of one thousand pounds [453.59~~
15 ~~kilograms] or less, traveling on three or more low-pressure tires, designed for~~
16 ~~operator use only with no passengers, having a seat or saddle designed to be~~
17 ~~straddled by the operator, and handlebars for steering control.~~

18 2. "Dealer" means any person engaged in the business of buying, selling, or
19 exchanging ~~all-terrain off-highway~~ vehicles or who advertises, or holds out to the
20 public as engaged in the buying, selling, or exchanging of ~~all-terrain off-highway~~
21 vehicles, or who engages in the buying of ~~all-terrain off-highway~~ vehicles for
22 resale.

23 2. "Off-highway vehicle" means any wheeled motorized vehicle not designed for use
24 on a highway and capable of cross-country travel on land, snow, ice, marsh,

1 swampland, or other natural terrain. An off-highway vehicle must be classified into
2 one of the following categories:

3 a. Class I off-highway vehicle is a vehicle that does not qualify as road capable
4 under chapters 39-21 and 39-27, has a seat or a saddle designed to be
5 straddled by the operator, and has handlebars for steering control of two
6 wheels.

7 b. Class II off-highway vehicle is less than fifty inches [1270.00 millimeters] in
8 width, travels on three or more low-pressure tires, has a saddle designed to
9 be straddled by the operator, and has handlebars for steering control.

10 c. Class III off-highway vehicle weighs less than eight thousand pounds, travels
11 on four or more tires, has a seat and a wheel for steering control, and is
12 designated for or capable of cross-country on or over land, water, sand,
13 snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain, unless registered by
14 the department under chapter 39-04.

15 3. "Operate" means to ride in or on and control the operation of an ~~all-terrain~~
16 off-highway vehicle.

17 4. "Operator" means a person who operates or is in actual physical control of an
18 ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle.

19 5. "Owner" means a person, other than a lienholder, having the property in or title to
20 an ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle and entitled to its use or possession.

21 6. "Register" means the act of assigning a registration number to an ~~all-terrain~~
22 off-highway vehicle.

23 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-29-01.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
24 amended and reenacted as follows:

25 **39-29-01.1. Safety fee - Imposition - Collection by dealer - Payment to department**

26 **- Use of fee.** Upon the sale of ~~an all-terrain~~ a new or used off-highway vehicle, ~~each~~ a dealer
27 shall collect a five dollar safety fee from the buyer. By the end of each calendar quarter, the
28 dealer shall file a report with the parks and recreation department which discloses the number
29 of ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicles sold the previous months and includes the fees collected from
30 the buyer. Fees imposed under this section must be deposited in the ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway
31 vehicle fund established under ~~subsection 2 of~~ section 39-29-05. The fees may be used only

1 by the parks and recreation department and only for ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle safety
2 education and promotion.

3 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-29-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5 **39-29-02. ~~All-terrain~~ Off-highway vehicle registration.** Except as provided in this
6 chapter, a person may not operate an ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle unless it has been
7 registered ~~in accordance with~~ under this chapter.

8 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-29-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **39-29-03. Registration - Application - Issuance - Fees - Renewal.**

- 11 1. Application for registration must be made to the department of transportation in the
12 form the department prescribes and furnishes. The registration must state the
13 name and address of every owner of the ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle and be
14 signed by at least one owner. A copy of the application is evidence of registration
15 for the first thirty days after the date of application.
- 16 2. On receipt of an application and the appropriate fee, the department shall register
17 the ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle and assign a registration number and a
18 certificate of registration. The certificate of registration must include information
19 regarding the make, year, serial number, and name and address of the owner.
- 20 3. The fee for registration of each ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle is five dollars for a
21 registration period of two years. For a duplicate or replacement registration
22 number or registration card which is lost, mutilated, or becomes illegible, the
23 department may charge a fee of not more than five dollars. For each ~~all-terrain~~
24 off-highway vehicle registered under this chapter, there is an ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway
25 vehicle trail tax of five dollars.
- 26 4. The owner of an ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle shall renew the registration in the
27 manner the department prescribes and pay the registration fees and applicable tax
28 provided in subsection 3.
- 29 5. On application for registration as prescribed in subsection 2, and on payment of
30 the amounts prescribed in subsection 3, an ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle dealer is
31 entitled to be issued registration numbers distinctively marked as dealer's

1 registration numbers. The dealer's registration numbers may be used only on
2 ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicles owned by the dealership.

3 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-29-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5 **39-29-04. Exemption from registration - Exemption from fees.**

- 6 1. Registration and payment of fees is not required of:
- 7 a. ~~All-terrain~~ Off-highway vehicles owned and used by the United States or
8 another state or its political subdivisions.
- 9 b. ~~All-terrain~~ Off-highway vehicles registered in a foreign country and
10 temporarily used in this state.
- 11 c. ~~All-terrain~~ Off-highway vehicles validly licensed in another state and which
12 have not been within this state for more than thirty consecutive days.
- 13 d. ~~All-terrain~~ Off-highway vehicles used exclusively ~~for work~~ on private
14 ~~agricultural lands or on industrial jobsites on private land.~~
- 15 e. ~~All-terrain~~ Off-highway vehicles used exclusively in organized track racing
16 events.
- 17 2. ~~All-terrain~~ Off-highway vehicles owned by the state or any of its political
18 subdivisions are exempt from the registration fees in section 39-29-03.

19 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-29-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
20 amended and reenacted as follows:

21 **39-29-05. Disposition of registration fees and trail tax.**

- 22 1. Fees from registration of ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicles must be deposited with
23 the state treasurer and credited to the motor vehicle registration fund.
- 24 2. The ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle trail tax must be deposited in a state off-highway
25 vehicle fund in the state treasury. The parks and recreation department may, on
26 appropriation by the legislative assembly, expend from that fund moneys for
27 establishing ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle facilities, ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle
28 use areas, and ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle safety and education programs, and
29 enforcement of this chapter.

30 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-29-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is
31 amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **39-29-06. Transfer or termination of ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle ownership -**
2 **Change of address of owner.** Within fifteen days after the transfer of any ownership interest
3 in an ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle, other than a security interest, or the destruction or
4 abandonment of any ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle, or a change of address of the owner as
5 listed with the application for registration, written notice of the fact must be given by the new
6 owner to the director in the form the director requires.

7 **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-29-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is
8 amended and reenacted as follows:

9 **39-29-07. Licensing by political subdivisions.** Political subdivisions of this state
10 may not require licensing or registration of ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicles.

11 **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-29-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is
12 amended and reenacted as follows:

13 **39-29-08. Rules.** ~~Rules for the regulation and use of all-terrain vehicles must be~~
14 ~~adopted as follows:~~

- 15 1. The department shall adopt rules for the registration of ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway
16 vehicles and display of registration numbers.
- 17 2. The director ~~may~~, in the interest of public health, welfare, and safety, may regulate,
18 by rule, the operation of ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicles on state highways. The
19 director's authority to prohibit the use of ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicles is limited to
20 the roadways, shoulders, inslopes, and medians within the right of way, except
21 where such action is necessary to avoid an obstacle. Notwithstanding the racing
22 prohibitions in section 39-08-03.1, the director may, on a case-by-case basis,
23 permit organized and bona fide ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle races on the ditch
24 bottoms, backslopes, and the top of the backslopes of the state highway rights of
25 way. The planning, organization, route selection, and safety precautions of any
26 ~~such~~ race are the sole responsibility of the person obtaining the permit. The
27 director, the department, and the department's employees do not incur ~~no~~ any
28 liability for permitting ~~such~~ races.
- 29 3. The director may permit a political subdivision or a person acting under authority of
30 a political subdivision to operate on the inside bank or slope of a highway for the
31 purposes of weed and insect control.

1 4. The director of the parks and recreation department shall adopt rules to regulate
2 use of ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicles in state parks and other state-owned land
3 under the supervision of the director of the parks and recreation department.

4 4- 5. The governing bodies of political subdivisions may adopt rules to regulate use of
5 ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicles in areas under their jurisdiction. The governing
6 body of a city may, by ordinance, regulate, restrict, and prohibit the use of
7 ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicles operated in the city limits in areas under the
8 exclusive jurisdiction of the city.

9 **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-29-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is
10 amended and reenacted as follows:

11 **39-29-09. Operation of ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicles.**

- 12 1. A person may not operate an ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle on the roadway,
13 shoulder, or inside bank or slope of any road, street, or highway except as
14 provided in this chapter. Except in emergencies, a person may not operate an
15 ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle within the right of way of any controlled-access
16 highway.
- 17 2. The operator of an ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle may make a direct crossing of a
18 street or highway only if:
- 19 a. The crossing is made at an angle of approximately ninety degrees to the
20 direction of the highway and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick
21 and safe crossing;
- 22 b. The ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle is brought to a complete stop before
23 crossing the shoulder or main traveled way of the highway;
- 24 c. The operator yields the right of way to all oncoming traffic which constitutes
25 an immediate hazard; and
- 26 d. In crossing a divided highway, the crossing is made only at an intersection of
27 the highway with another public street or highway.
- 28 3. A person may not operate an ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle unless it is equipped
29 with at least one headlamp, one taillamp, and brakes, all in working order, which
30 conform to standards prescribed by rule of the director ~~of the department of~~
31 ~~transportation~~, except when under the direct supervision of an ~~all-terrain~~

- 1 off-highway vehicle instructor teaching a certified ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle
2 safety training course, the requirement for a headlamp and taillamp may be
3 waived.
- 4 4. The emergency conditions under which an ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle may be
5 operated other than as provided by this chapter are only those that render the use
6 of an automobile impractical under the conditions and at the time and location in
7 question.
- 8 5. A person may not operate an ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle in the following ways,
9 which are declared to be unsafe and a public nuisance:
- 10 a. At a rate of speed greater than reasonable or proper under all the surrounding
11 circumstances.
- 12 b. In a careless, reckless, or negligent manner so as to endanger the person or
13 property of another or to cause injury or damage to ~~such~~ another person or
14 the property of another person.
- 15 c. While under the influence of intoxicating liquor or a controlled substance.
- 16 d. Without a lighted headlamp and taillamp except when used by an ~~all-terrain~~
17 off-highway vehicle instructor during a certified ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle
18 safety training course.
- 19 e. In any tree nursery or planting in a manner ~~which~~ that damages growing
20 stock.
- 21 f. Without a manufacturer-installed or equivalent muffler in good working order
22 and connected to the ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle's exhaust system.
- 23 g. On any private land where the private land is posted prohibiting trespassing.
24 The name and address of the person posting the land and the date of posting
25 must appear on each sign in legible characters. The posted signs must be
26 readable from outside the land and be placed conspicuously at a distance of
27 not more than eight hundred eighty yards [804.68 meters] apart. Land
28 entirely enclosed by a fence or other enclosure is sufficiently posted by
29 posting of ~~such~~ these signs; at or on all gates through the fence or enclosure.
- 30 6. Except as provided in section 39-29-10, a person may not operate an ~~all-terrain~~
31 off-highway vehicle without having in possession a valid driver's license or permit.

- 1 7. When an ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle is operated within the right of way of any
2 road, street, or highway, during times or conditions that warrant the use of lights by
3 other motor vehicles, the ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle must be operated in the
4 same direction as the direction of other motor vehicles traveling on the side of the
5 roadway immediately adjacent to the side of the right of way traveled by the
6 ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle.
- 7 8. A person may not operate an ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle within the right of way
8 of any highway while towing a sled, skid, or other vehicle, unless the object towed
9 is connected to the ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle by a hinged swivel and secure
10 hitch.
- 11 9. ~~Helmet required. No~~ A person under the age of eighteen years may not operate,
12 ride, or otherwise be propelled on an ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle unless the
13 person wears a safety helmet meeting United States department of transportation
14 standards.
- 15 10. ~~Passenger restrictions. No~~ An operator of an ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle may
16 not carry a passenger while operating, unless the off-highway vehicle has a
17 specific passenger seat with a back rest.
- 18 11. Unless otherwise provided by this chapter, an off-highway vehicle may be
19 operated on an aggregate road surface only when designated as part of an active
20 off-highway vehicle trail by the managing entity.

21 **SECTION 12. AMENDMENT.** Section 51-20-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
22 amended and reenacted as follows:

23 **51-20-01. Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise:

- 24 1. "Contractual arrangement" means a written franchise or other written agreement,
25 by whatever name such agreement may be called, between a distributor and a
26 dealer whereby the dealer agrees to sell at retail and service the distributor's
27 recreation vehicles in a given location or locations, whether or not exclusively with
28 respect to a given geographic area, and the distributor authorizes the dealer to
29 sell, or sell and service, and agrees to supply an inventory of recreation vehicles,
30 and, if the dealer is to perform service, an inventory of parts for those vehicles.

- 1 2. "Dealer" means a person, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or
2 other business entity which sells at retail and services new recreation vehicles.
- 3 3. "Distributor" means any manufacturer, wholesaler, or distributor of recreation
4 vehicles who has a contractual arrangement with a dealer in such vehicles.
- 5 4. "Recreation vehicle" includes snowmobiles as defined in section 39-24-01, plus
6 trailers for transporting same when those trailers are furnished by the same
7 distributor who furnishes the snowmobiles; ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicles as
8 defined in section 39-29-01; motorcycles as defined in subsection 39 of section
9 39-01-01; travel trailers, which term means vehicles without motive power
10 designed for recreational use as living or sleeping quarters for people and which
11 do not exceed forty feet [12.19 meters] in length; and motorboats, whether
12 propelled by an inboard or outboard marine engine, plus any outboard marine
13 engines and boat trailers.
- 14 5. "Repair parts" includes accessories.

15 **SECTION 13. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-40.3-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
16 amended and reenacted as follows:

17 **57-40.3-01. Definitions.** As used in this chapter, except when the context clearly
18 indicates a different meaning:

- 19 1. ~~"All-terrain vehicle" means any motorized off-highway vehicle fifty inches~~
20 ~~[1270 millimeters] or less in width, having a dry weight of one thousand pounds~~
21 ~~[453.59 kilograms] or less, traveling on three or more low-pressure tires, designed~~
22 ~~for operator use only with no passengers, having a seat or saddle designed to be~~
23 ~~straddled by the operator, and handlebars for steering control.~~
- 24 2. "Low-speed vehicle" means a four-wheeled vehicle that is able to attain a speed,
25 upon a paved surface, of twenty miles per hour [32 kilometers per hour] in one mile
26 [1.6 kilometers per hour] and not more than twenty-five miles per hour [40
27 kilometers per hour] in one mile [1.6 kilometers per hour] and may not exceed one
28 thousand five hundred pounds [680.39 kilograms] in unloaded weight.
- 29 ~~3.~~ 2. "Motor vehicle" includes every vehicle that is self-propelled and every vehicle that
30 is propelled by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires, but not
31 operated upon rails, every trailer, semitrailer, park model trailer as defined in

- 1 subsection 2 of section 57-55-10, ~~all-terrain~~ off-highway vehicle, snowmobile,
2 low-speed vehicle, and travel trailer for which a certificate of title is required to be
3 obtained under chapter 39-05, but not including housetrailer or mobile homes.
- 4 3. "Off-highway vehicle" means off-highway vehicle as defined in section 39-29-01.
- 5 4. "Person" includes any individual, firm, partnership, joint venture, association,
6 corporation, limited liability company, estate, business trust, receiver, or any other
7 group or combination acting as a unit and the plural as well as the singular
8 number.
- 9 5. "Purchase price" means the total amount paid for the motor vehicle whether
10 received in money or otherwise; provided, however, that when a motor vehicle or
11 other tangible personal property that will be subject to a sales or use tax imposed
12 by chapter 57-39.2 or 57-40.2 when sold or used is taken in trade as a credit or as
13 part payment on a motor vehicle taxable under this chapter, the credit or trade-in
14 value allowed by the person selling the motor vehicle shall be deducted from the
15 total selling price to establish the purchase price of the vehicle being sold and the
16 trade-in allowance allowed by the seller on a motor vehicle accepted as a trade-in
17 shall constitute the purchase price of a motor vehicle accepted as a trade-in. If a
18 motor vehicle is purchased by an owner who has had a motor vehicle stolen or
19 totally destroyed, a credit or trade-in credit shall be allowed in an amount not to
20 exceed the total amount the purchaser has been compensated by an insurance
21 company for the loss but not to exceed the total amount of motor vehicle excise tax
22 paid. The purchaser must provide the director of the department of transportation
23 with a notarized statement from the insurance company verifying the fact that the
24 original vehicle was a total loss and stating the amount compensated by the
25 insurance company for the loss. The statement from the insurance company must
26 accompany the purchaser's application for a certificate of title for the replacement
27 vehicle. In instances in which a licensed motor vehicle dealer places into the
28 dealer's service a new vehicle for the purpose of renting, leasing, or dealership
29 utility service, the reasonable value of the vehicle replaced shall be included as
30 trade-in value provided the vehicle replaced has been subject to motor vehicle
31 excise tax under section 57-40.3-02 and if the new vehicle is properly registered

- 1 and licensed. "Purchase price" when the motor vehicle is acquired by gift or by
2 any other transfer for a nominal or no monetary consideration also includes the
3 average value of similar motor vehicles, established by standards and guides as
4 determined by the director of the department of transportation. "Purchase price"
5 when a motor vehicle is manufactured by a person who registers it under the laws
6 of this state means the manufactured cost of such motor vehicle and manufactured
7 cost means the amount expended for materials, labor, and other properly allocable
8 costs of manufacture except that, in the absence of actual expenditures for the
9 manufacture of a part or all of the motor vehicle, manufactured cost means the
10 reasonable value of the completed motor vehicle.
- 11 6. "Purchaser" means any person owning or in possession of a motor vehicle who
12 makes application to the director of the department of transportation for registration
13 plates or a certificate of title for such vehicle.
- 14 7. "Registrar" means the director of the department of transportation of this state as
15 provided by section 24-02-01.3, and who shall act as the agent of the state tax
16 commissioner in administering this chapter.
- 17 8. "Sale", "sells", "selling", "purchase", "purchased", or "acquired" includes any
18 transfer of title or ownership of a motor vehicle by way of gift, exchange or barter,
19 or by any other manner or by any other means whatsoever for or without
20 consideration.
- 21 9. "Semitrailer" includes every vehicle of the trailer type so designed and used in
22 conjunction with a motor vehicle that some part of its own weight and that of its
23 own load rests upon or is carried by another motor vehicle and for which a
24 certificate of title is required to be obtained pursuant to the provisions of
25 chapter 39-05, except that it does not include a "housetrailer" or "mobile home".
- 26 10. "Snowmobile" means a self-propelled vehicle designed for travel on snow, ice, or a
27 natural terrain and steered by skis or runners.
- 28 11. "Trailer" includes every vehicle without motive power designed to carry property or
29 passengers wholly on its own structure and to be drawn by a motor vehicle and for
30 which a certificate of title is required to be obtained pursuant to the provisions of
31 chapter 39-05, except that it does not include a "housetrailer" or "mobile home".

- 1 12. "Travel trailer" means a mobile home or housetrailer designed to be towed behind
2 a motor vehicle for recreational purposes and providing temporary sleeping
3 quarters for people.
- 4 13. "Use" means the exercise by any person of any right or power over a motor vehicle
5 incident to the ownership or possession of such a vehicle, except that it shall not
6 include the sale or holding for sale of such a vehicle in the regular course of
7 business.
- 8 14. "Vehicle" includes every device in, upon, or by which any person or property may
9 be transported or drawn upon a public highway, except devices moved by human
10 power or animal power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.