BILL TOPIC:  OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES REGULATION & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Summary of Legislation

The bill, as amended by the House Local Government committee, allows local governments, acting by ordinance or resolution, to require off-highway vehicle (OHV) operators to have a driver's license and/or carry liability insurance, except that a local government cannot make these requirements for OHVs during emergency conditions or for those OHVs used for agricultural purposes. The bill also requires local governments that choose to allow at-grade crossings on a state highway to notify the Colorado Department of Transportation.

Background

During the 2015 interim, the six-member OHV Interim Committee held five meetings during the 2015 interim in order to study safety issues, access issues, and regulation necessary to operate OHVs on roads.

Under current law, the CPW's OHV registration program issues registrations and use permits for OHVs (specifically all-terrain vehicles, utility vehicles, 3-wheelers, dirt bikes, jeeps, and dune buggies), so that these vehicles may use public lands or trails in Colorado. Certain OHVs are exempt from registration when:

- used for agricultural purposes;
- owned by a governmental entity;
- used strictly on private property;
- used for training purposes;
- participating in special events; and
- licensed or registered in another state and not domiciled Colorado for more than 30 consecutive days.

As of July 1, 2014, the Department of Revenue titles OHVs and snowmobiles purchased from powersports vehicle dealerships and, optionally, through private party sales. As of August 2015, there are about 12,000 OHVs titled in the state (excluding snowmobiles). The CPW requires proof of ownership upon registration and keeps a record of the manufacturer's numbers for all OHVs, a list of which is provided to the DOR on a monthly basis. The DOR maintains a computerized list in order to aid in the recovery of stolen OHVs.
Local Government Impact

Conditional upon a local government's decision to adopt a resolution or an ordinance to requiring OHV operators to have a driver's license and/or carry liability insurance, or when regulating state highway crossings, the bill will increase costs and workloads for those local governments. It is expected that costs will be related to notifying the public through signage and printed materials, while workload will involve the public input and governing process, as well as notifying affected state agencies, where applicable.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Agriculture
Clerk and Recorders
Local Affairs
Office of Information Technology
Sheriffs
Counties
Judicial
Municipalities
Public Safety
Transportation
Corrections
Law
Natural Resources
Revenue

Research Note Available

An LCS Research Note for HB 16-1030 is available online and through the iLegislate app. Research notes provide additional policy and background information about the bill and summarize action taken by the General Assembly concerning the bill.

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit: www.colorado.gov/fisca/notes.