

SB24-056

Out-of-State Snowmobile Permit & Search Rescue Fee

Current law requires a snowmobile owner to register the snowmobile, but exempts snowmobiles that are used only on private property for private, noncommercial use. The bill expands the exemption to cover all use on private property, regardless of whether the snowmobile is used commercially.

In current law, the snowmobile recreation fund is used to establish and maintain snowmobile trails and facilities, among other things. Residents of Colorado who use a snowmobile on publicly owned land must pay a fee, which is deposited to the snowmobile recreation fund. The bill repeals a \$5 per registration cap on the fee.

There is not currently an out-of-state snowmobile permit required, the bill creates such a permit which must be obtained and displayed to drive the snowmobile on publicly owned land. The parks and wildlife commission may set the fee amount.

Exceptions are created for snowmobiles:

- Owned by governments;
- Operated in an organized event authorized by the government with jurisdiction over the land on which the snowmobile is operated; and
- Operated on publicly owned land for non recreational purposes.

The fine for violation is \$100. Permits are valid for one year from April 1 to March 31 and are issued by agents of the director of the division of parks and wildlife

The bill also adds the search and rescue fee- which is in current law to pay for backcountry search and rescue operations- to out-of-state snowmobile permits and off-highway use permits.