

1 H.579

2 Introduced by Representatives Conquest of Newbury, Burditt of West Rutland,

3 Johnson of Canaan and Peaslee of Guildhall

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Motor vehicles; snowmobiles; registration; decal; exemption

7 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to:

8 (1) authorize snowmobiles properly registered in another state or province
9 to operate in Vermont without a trail maintenance assessment decal on
10 designated trails from the New Hampshire border to the village of Beecher
11 Falls, Vermont;

12 (2) reorganize and clarify the snowmobile registration and decal provisions.

13 An act relating to a snowmobile decal exemption

14 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

15 Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 3202 is amended to read:

16 § 3202. REGISTRATION AND TMA DECAL REQUIRED; EXCEPTIONS

17 ~~FOR GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES ON LAND OWNED BY~~

18 ~~OPERATOR, OR WITH LANDOWNER CONSENT~~

19 (a) Registration and decal required. A person shall not operate a
20 snowmobile in this state unless it is registered and numbered by the state of

1 Vermont or ~~other~~ another state or province and displays a valid Vermont trails
2 maintenance assessment ("TMA") decal adjacent to the registration decal on
3 the left side of the snowmobile in accordance with this chapter, except when
4 operated:

5 * * *

6 (e) ~~Special provisions for certain areas of operation; Massachusetts; New~~
7 ~~Hampshire; New York; Province of Quebec~~ decal exemptions. A legally
8 ~~registered snowmobile, from any adjacent~~ legally registered in another state or
9 ~~Province which provides the same reciprocity to Vermont,~~ province may enter
10 and operate in this state by without a TMA decal as follows:

11 (1) ~~using~~ Using a portion of the statewide snowmobile trail system, a
12 public right-of-way open to snowmobiles, or private land that is posted open to
13 snowmobiles, for a distance not to exceed three miles for the sole purpose of
14 accessing the closest food, fuel, lodging, and repair services, ~~and, at,~~ At a
15 point three miles from the state line, trails shall be posted "VT TMA Required
16 Beyond This ~~Point~~". Point."

17 (2) In Addison, Bennington, and Rutland counties, ~~licensed~~
18 ~~snowmobiles from reciprocating jurisdictions may operate~~ from the New York
19 border to Poultney village via corridor trail 4A (Delaware Hudson Rail Trail);
20 from the New York border in Pawlet in the north to the New York border in
21 the south in the town of Rupert (13 miles) along corridor trail 4; and from Lake

1 Champlain at Benson Landing to the town of Benson via the local snowmobile
2 trail.

3 (3) For the purpose of accessing international customs services, on the
4 so-called "Keyhole Trail," for a distance of approximately one-half mile from
5 United States/Canadian Customs at Beecher Falls to the town line of Pittsburg,
6 New Hampshire, and for a distance of approximately four miles via Vermont
7 Association of Snow Travelers snowmobile corridor 105 to Canaan and to the
8 West Stewartstown, New Hampshire bridge connecting to the New Hampshire
9 3A snowmobile trail on the Beecher Falls to Colebrook, New Hampshire
10 railbed, and on immediately adjacent areas for services.

11 (4) In Essex County, for a distance of approximately 18 miles to and
12 from the New Hampshire border to the village of Beecher Falls in the town of
13 Canaan, via Vermont Association of Snow Travelers snowmobile trails 103 to
14 96 to 105/96 to 105.

15 (5) The commissioner may authorize the temporary operation of
16 snowmobiles on designated regular or temporary trails for special events.

17 ~~(f) Reciprocity. The commissioner may grant registration reciprocity to~~
18 ~~snowmobiles registered in other states or provinces upon recommendation of~~
19 ~~the Governors Snowmobile Council and the Vermont Association of Snow~~
20 ~~Travelers, Inc.; or its successor. The granting of reciprocal areas of use as~~

1 ~~provided in this act is not contingent upon reciprocity being granted to~~
2 ~~Vermont registrants by other states and provinces. [Repealed.]~~

3 (g) ~~Essex County; operation into Canada and New Hampshire from~~
4 ~~Beecher Falls and Canaan; access to United States and Canadian customs and~~
5 ~~immigration and naturalization services. For the purpose of providing access~~
6 ~~to international customs services, a snowmobile may be operated on the so-~~
7 ~~called "Keyhole Trail," for a distance of approximately one-half mile from~~
8 ~~United States/Canadian Customs at Beecher Falls to the town line of Pittsburg,~~
9 ~~New Hampshire, and for a distance of approximately four miles via Vermont~~
10 ~~Association of Snow Travelers snowmobile corridor 105 to Canaan and to the~~
11 ~~West Stewartstown, New Hampshire bridge connecting to the New Hampshire~~
12 ~~3A snowmobile trail on the Beecher Falls to Colebrook, New Hampshire~~
13 ~~railbed, and immediately adjacent areas for services, provided the snowmobile~~
14 ~~is registered in another state or province. [Repealed.]~~

15 (h) ~~Special events exemption from registration. The commissioner may~~
16 ~~authorize the temporary operation of snowmobiles not registered in this state~~
17 ~~on designated regular or temporary trails for special events, provided the~~
18 ~~snowmobile is registered in another state or province. [Repealed.]~~

19 (i) Authority of natural resources board. Nothing in this section relating to
20 operation on frozen bodies of water shall be construed to affect the authority of
21 the natural resources board to regulate uses of public bodies of water.

- 1 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE
- 2 This act shall take effect on passage.