

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

Date: February 23, 2021
To: Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
From: Rachel Olson, Legislative Analyst
Re: LD 280, "An Act To Increase Funding for Snowmobile Trails and Capital Equipment Grants" (Martin)

Summary:

This bill changes the resident and nonresident registration fees for snowmobiles and uses the increased fees to help fund the Snowmobile Trail Fund and the fund responsible for capital equipment grants.

- The fee for resident snowmobile registrations is increased by \$10.
- The fees for nonresident snowmobile registrations are increased by \$20.
- Five dollars from the increase of both resident and nonresident fees go towards a special fund administered by the Off-Road Vehicle Division of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.
- The other \$5 from the resident fee increase and the other \$15 dollars from the nonresident fee increases goes towards the Snowmobile Trail Fund.

Testimony:

Proponents: Mike Grass, Jr., MSA; John Monk, MSA; James Stubinski, Terry Hill, Blaine King, Leslie Hill, Matt Stedman, Eileen Lafland, MSA; Todd Snocker, Mt. Chase BMSP; Susan Rogers, ME Snowmobile Advisory Council; Dwight Flewelling, Easton Trailbreakers; Alan Swett, Stephen Dudley, ME Snowmobile Advisory Council; Cheri Brackett, Bradford Barker, Leeds Stump Thumpers S.C.

- Proposed increase will help with trail maintenance and equipment
- Funds are needed, especially with current economic situation
- Costs of equipment has risen significantly
- Helps to support Maine Tourism economy

Opponents: None

Neither for nor against: Joe Higgins, Snowmobile Program of MEBPL;

- Snowmobile industry has major impact on economy of Maine
- Ensure necessary resources without creating a barrier to participation

Potential Issues:

None identified.

Notes:

Based on the List of Precloture Legislator and Department/Agency Bills, there are no other bills addressing snowmobile registration fees this session.

Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Status: Not Yet Determined

Links:

[Testimony](#)

[The Economic Contribution of Snowmobiling in Maine](#) – Report from the University of Maine