

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

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Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: George, Schrader, Starr, Verger, Metsger

Nays: -

Exc.: -

Prepared By: Jim Stembridge, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/12, 4/2

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Creates 12-member task force to study the safety of all-terrain vehicles and report findings to the Legislative Assembly by October 1, 2010. Directs the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to staff the task force. Declares an emergency, effective upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Current safety regulations
- Changes in technology, including weight and size classifications, side-by-side vehicles
- Law enforcement difficulties

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Changes task force staffing responsibility to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

**BACKGROUND:** According to the website of the United States Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC), too many all-terrain vehicle (ATV) riders – young and old – are dying or experiencing life-altering injuries from incidents involving ATVs. The CPSC estimates that 740 people died in incidents associated with ATVs in 2003 and that 136,100 emergency-room-treated injuries were associated with ATVs in 2004. About a third of all deaths and injuries involved victims under 16 years old. The CPSC also reported that ridership has continued to grow, with 6.2 million 4-wheeled ATVs in use in 2003. The major ATV manufacturers agreed in 1988, and in subsequent plans, that they would not manufacture three-wheel ATVs; that they would restrict engine size on ATVs sold for use by children under 16, and they would offer driver-training programs.

Oregon ATV riders age 15 or younger and adults who supervise them are required to complete an on-line Oregon ATV Safety Education course. Beginning in 2012, hands-on training will become mandatory for youth 15 and under.