



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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March 9, 2023

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Co-Vice Chairs Boquist and Boshart Davis and members of the Committee,

The All-Terrain Vehicle Advisory Committee requests your support for SB 888. This bill expands requirements for ATV Safety Education Cards to Class IV (side-by-sides) and non-registered class II ATVs (sand rails) to improve awareness around safety and environmental concerns for use in off-road conditions.

As a committee, one of our top priorities for legislative change is for the requirement of ATV Safety Cards for Class IV ATVs (side-by-sides). When the safety card program was initially developed, Class IV ATVs were a small part of the use and, at the time, we were seeing the most injuries with Class I (ATVs) and Class III (motorcycles). Based on those circumstances and the fact an education program was available for Class I and III vehicles, legislation in 2007 only focused requirements for safety education cards on those two classes of vehicles. It was always intended to expand the ATV Safety Cards to all classes of ATVs.

With a sharp rise in side-by-sides (Class IV) sales, we are seeing an increase of crashes and injuries with these vehicles. While some drivers have been operating other types of ATVs for years and already have their safety card, we are seeing many people new to the sport. New riders do not understand the ethics and dangers associated with operating them. The current ATV Safety Education program covers rules that side-by-side riders need to know. This bill will not require additional changes in the education program. Oregon State Parks does not charge a fee to get the card and once taken, the card is good for life, so the only real impact to new riders is taking time to learn the rules, ethics and safe operations of side-by-sides.

Similar bills have been introduced in 2019 and 2021. SB 888 incorporates feedback received on those bills and only applies to Class II vehicles that are not registered to drive on public roads. Ensuring that riders of all ATVs going off-road on public land have a safety education card simplifies requirements and ensures a base level of understanding.

The ATV Advisory Committee, as directed by ORS 390.565, is made up of 17 members including ATV riders, law enforcement, first responders, land managers and ODOT. We feel SB 888 is needed to help make side-by-side operation safer and clarify rules regarding side-by-sides that benefit both the rider/driver and law enforcement.

Sincerely,
ATV Advisory Committee

ATV Advisory Committee Members:

Class I organization: Dave Kimball

Class II organization (Chair): Virgle Osborne

Class III organization: Barrett Brown

Class IV organization: Matt Miller

ATV user at large (Vice-Chair): Ron Price

Law Enforcement Agency: Nick Hansen

U.S. Forest Service: Kevin Rowell

Bureau of Land Management: Chris Knauf

Department of Forestry: Reid Brown

Department of Transportation: Amy Joyce

Department of Human Services: Peter Geissert

OR Department of Fish & Wildlife: Greg Jackle

ATV Dealer: Dustin James

Rural Fire Protection District: Jody Phillips

Emergency Medical Services Provider: Jim Cole

ADA representative: Ann Haak

Non-voting member from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department: Jeff Trejo