

**SB 1565 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****Carrier:** Rep. Evans**House Committee On Rules****Action Date:** 03/03/26**Action:** Do Pass.**Vote:** 6-1-0-0**Yeas:** 6 - Bowman, Elmer, Grayber, Kropf, Pham H, Wallan**Nays:** 1 - Skarlatos**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan**Meeting Dates:** 2/27, 3/3**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure increases two-year snowmobile registration fees from \$10 to \$30. It takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- The fee no longer covering the Oregon Department of Transportation's administrative costs
- Question of whether the fee should be indexed to inflation

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Snowmobiles are defined in Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 801.490 as a self-propelled vehicle capable of traveling over snow and ice that uses an endless belt tread or cleats as a means of propulsion and uses skis or sled-type runners, at least partly, for steering. They typically feature straddle seating and handlebar steering similar to motorcycles or Class I all-terrain vehicles. Oregon requires that snowmobiles be both titled (ORS 821.060) and registered (ORS 821.080) to lawfully operate on public spaces in the state; out-of-state registration is generally accepted, and out-of-state permits are available. Both the failure to title and the failure to register a snowmobile are punishable as a Class D traffic violation.

Sno-Parks are an important resource in Oregon for outdoor winter recreation. Many of the state's nearly 100 Sno-Parks offer snowmobile trails, in addition to downhill and cross-country skiing, dog sledding, and sledding, and are concentrated mostly in eastern and southern Oregon. Use of these facilities requires a Sno-Park permit, which is essentially a parking pass for access to the areas. Snowmobiles must be both titled and registered to lawfully operate in Sno-Parks.

Oregon's snowmobile registration fee is currently set at \$10 and is valid for two years. Senate Bill 1565 would increase the fee to \$30 to provide greater funding for the state's snowmobile programs.