

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

S.P. 631 - L.D. 1547

An Act to Fund Maine's Snowmobile Trail Programs

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §1893, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. B, §21 and affected by c. 614, §9, is further amended to read:

A. Within available funds, the snowmobile program shall develop and maintain snowmobile trails and provide educational and informational materials for the use of operators of snowmobiles. The bureau may charge a reasonable fee for such services and materials when the money credited to it under chapter 937 is insufficient to satisfy the demand for those services and materials. All fees collected must be deposited in the bureau's Snowmobile Trail Fund. The bureau shall administer the Snowmobile Trail Fund, and the snowmobile program's other activities must be conducted pursuant to subsection 3. The Snowmobile Trail Fund receives funding as provided in section 10206, subsection 2-A, chapter 937 and Title 36, section 2903-D, subsection 2.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §10206, sub-§2, ¶A, as amended by PL 2007, c. 556, §1; PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §§5 and 7; and PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §24, is further amended to read:

A. After the transfers provided in ~~section 13104, subsection 4~~ subsection 2-A, the snowmobile and trail-grooming equipment registration fee for residents collected under chapter 937 is credited as follows:

- (1) Twenty-two percent is credited to the General Fund as undedicated revenue;
- (2) Fifty-two percent is credited to the Snowmobile Trail Fund of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands; and
- (3) Twenty-six percent is annually distributed to the municipality of the owner's residence as shown on the owner's registration certificate, except that in unorganized territory, 26% is annually distributed to the county of the owner's residence as shown on the owner's registration certificate and credited to the unorganized territory fund of that county established in Title 30-A, section 7502.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §10206, sub-§2, ¶B, as amended by PL 2007, c. 556, §2; PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §§5 and 7; and PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §24, is further amended to read:

B. After the transfers provided in ~~section 13104, subsection 4~~ subsection 2-A, the snowmobile registration fee for nonresidents collected under chapter 937 is credited as follows.

- (1) Eighteen percent is credited to the General Fund as undedicated revenue.
- (2) Seven percent is credited to the Snowmobile Enforcement Fund established under section 10258.
- (3) The remainder is credited to the Snowmobile Trail Fund of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands.

Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §10206, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Distribution of revenue from snowmobile registrations. Revenues received for snowmobile registration fees must be disbursed and used as follows.

A. The snowmobile registration fee for residents collected under section 13104, subsection 4, paragraph A is credited as follows:

- (1) For registrations issued July 1st to December 15th of each year, \$17 must be transferred to the Snowmobile Trail Fund;
- (2) For registrations issued July 1st to December 15th of each year, \$10 must be transferred to a special fund administered by the Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office;
- (3) For registrations issued December 16th of each year to June 30th of the following year, \$30 must be transferred to the Snowmobile Trail Fund; and
- (4) For registrations issued December 16th of each year to June 30th of the following year, \$12 must be transferred to a special fund administered by the Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office.

B. The snowmobile registration fee for nonresidents collected under section 13104, subsection 4, paragraph B is credited as follows:

- (1) For registrations issued July 1st to December 15th of each year, \$21 from each seasonal registration fee must be transferred to the Snowmobile Trail Fund;
- (2) For registrations issued July 1st to December 15th of each year, \$15 from each seasonal registration fee must be transferred to a special fund administered by the Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office;
- (3) For registrations issued December 16th of each year to June 30th of the following year, \$47 from each seasonal registration fee must be transferred to the Snowmobile Trail Fund;
- (4) For registrations issued December 16th of each year to June 30th of the following year, \$20 from each seasonal registration fee must be transferred to a special fund administered by the Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office;
- (5) Five dollars from each 3-consecutive-day registration fee and 10-consecutive-day registration fee must be transferred to the Snowmobile Enforcement Fund established under section 10258; and
- (6) Fifty-one dollars from each 3-consecutive-day registration fee and \$51 from each 10-consecutive-day registration fee must be transferred to the Department of

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and credited in the following manner: \$33 must be transferred to the Snowmobile Trail Fund and \$18 must be transferred to a special fund administered by the Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office.

For purposes of this subsection, "Snowmobile Trail Fund" means the Snowmobile Trail Fund of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands as described in section 1893, subsection 1 and "Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office" means the office established under section 1893.

Funds transferred to a special fund administered by the Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office pursuant to this subsection must be used to assist an entity that has a snowmobile trail grooming contract with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands in the purchase of trail-grooming equipment. The funds may also be used for the repair or overhaul of trail-grooming equipment.

Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §13104, sub-§4, as corrected by RR 2021, c. 1, Pt. A, §9, is amended to read:

4. Fee. Except as provided in subsection 5, the annual snowmobile registration fee is as follows:

A. For residents, for registrations issued July 1st to December 15th of each year, \$55; for registrations issued December 16th of each year to June 30th of the following year, \$70. The registration for a snowmobile owned by a resident is valid for one year, commencing on July 1st of each year; and

B. For nonresidents:

(1) ~~Seventy-four~~ Ninety-four dollars for a 3-consecutive-day registration. A person may purchase more than one 3-day registration in any season;

(2) ~~One hundred and nineteen dollars~~ For registrations issued July 1st to December 15th of each year, \$119; for registrations issued December 16th of each year to June 30th of the following year, \$150 for a seasonal registration; and

(3) ~~Ninety-nine~~ One hundred nineteen dollars for a 10-consecutive-day registration. A person may purchase more than one 10-day registration in any season.

The registration for a snowmobile owned by a nonresident must specify the dates for which the registration is valid.

~~Ten dollars from each resident registration fee and \$15 from each nonresident registration fee collected pursuant to this subsection must be transferred to 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 funds must be used to assist any entity that has a snowmobile trail grooming contract with the Bureau of Parks and Lands in the purchase of trail-grooming equipment. The funds also may be used for the repair or overhaul of trail-grooming equipment.~~

~~Seventeen dollars from each resident snowmobile registration fee must be transferred to the Snowmobile Trail Fund of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands.~~

Sixteen dollars from each nonresident 3-day snowmobile registration fee, \$16 from each nonresident 10-day snowmobile registration fee and \$21 from each nonresident seasonal snowmobile registration fee must be transferred to the Snowmobile Trail Fund of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands.

Five dollars from each nonresident 3-day snowmobile registration fee and 10-day snowmobile registration fee must be transferred to the Snowmobile Enforcement Fund established under section 10258.

Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §13104, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

4-A. Review of snowmobile registration fees and trail maintenance needs. In consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the department shall review snowmobile registration fees and maintenance needs of designated state-approved snowmobile trails in 2028 and 2029 and every 2 years thereafter. The commissioner shall report the findings and recommendations from the review to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters by February 1st each year a review is required. The committee may report out legislation related to snowmobile registration fees and maintenance needs of snowmobile trails to the session of the Legislature in which the report is received.

Sec. 7. 36 MRSA §2903-D, sub-§2, ¶A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 668, §1, is further amended to read:

A. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife receives 13.41% of that amount, to be used by the commissioner for the purposes set forth in Title 12, section 1893, subsection 3, section 10206, ~~subsection subsections 2 and 2-A~~, section 13104, subsections 2 to 10 and section 13105, subsection 1; and

Sec. 8. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF
Off-Road Recreational Vehicles Program Z224**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the programming and information technology costs associated with changes to the snowmobile registration system.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$230,768
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$230,768

Sec. 9. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1, 2027.