



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Rep. Timothy Guerrette introducing
L.D. 341, "An Act to Amend the Definition of "Oversized ATV" to Increase the Minimum Weight Requirement"
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

March 19, 2025

Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, distinguished members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee, my name is Representative Timothy Guerrette and I serve the towns of Caribou, Wade, and Washburn.

I stand before you today to introduce LD 341, "An Act to Amend the Definition of 'Oversized ATV' to Increase the Minimum Weight Requirement".

This bill increases the ATV registration weight limit from 2,000 pounds to 3,500 pounds. The current weight restriction does not reflect the advancements in ATV technology, the needs of landowners, or the economic impact on municipalities.

Many modern ATVs exceed the 2,000-pound limit once accessories and attachments are added, yet they remain legally registered. This creates an inconsistency in the law that must be addressed. Additionally, newer, heavier ATVs are engineered with larger tires and advanced suspension systems that help distribute weight more evenly, reducing ruts and minimizing trail damage. These technological improvements mean that increasing the weight limit will not harm trails but rather support sustainable use.

ATVs are not just for recreation; they are critical tools for land management, forestry work, and agriculture. Many landowners rely on larger ATVs to efficiently manage their property. These machines also allow for multigenerational riding, ensuring that older and younger riders can enjoy the outdoors together.

Maine Game Wardens rely on ATVs as essential tools for patrolling remote areas, enforcing wildlife laws, and responding to emergencies. Larger ATVs with increased weight capacity would allow them to carry necessary equipment, navigate rough terrain more efficiently, and perform search and rescue operations more effectively.

The economic impact is significant. The average oversized ATV costs between \$35,000 and \$52,000, generating approximately \$2,000 in tax revenue per vehicle. At just two local dealers, 43 of these oversized ATVs were sold, contributing substantially to the local economy. Restricting these sales due to outdated weight limits could hinder economic growth, reduce municipal tax revenue, and negatively impact local businesses.

Additionally, multiple large landowners in Aroostook County have made it clear that if weight limits are not increased, they will close access to ATV riders, significantly reducing available trail systems and harming local economies that depend on outdoor tourism.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the adoption of a higher ATV registration weight limit to 3,500 pounds. This change will support responsible land use, maintain municipal revenues, and ensure the long-term sustainability of ATV riding in our state.

Timothy C. Guerrette
State Representative

Northern Aroostook Farmers in favor of passage:

Brent Grass – Blaine

Wade McCrum and McCrum Family Holdings – Mars Hill

Dwayne Theriault – Washburn, Long Lake

Seth Williams – Will Turn Farm Washburn and New Sweden

Rickey Bouchard – Caribou and New Sweden

Ryan Guerrette – Guerrette Farms in Caribou

Drew Ayers of Emerald Valley Farms – Caribou

Phil Killcollins – Fort Fairfield

Nate Marquis – Van Buren

Mark Madore – Connor and Caswell

Griffith Farms – Caribou and Presque Isle

This represents thousands of acres and hundreds of miles of ATV trails in Northern Maine.