



To the Honorable 130th Legislature

The Maine Snowmobile Association would like to share we are not in favor of LD-944, an Act to Simplify Dual Registrations of Snowmobiles and ATV's. The MSA is a 53-year organization proudly representing 288 clubs at promoting, educating safety related and in this case, supporting controlled growth of this industry in Maine. This truly is a situation different from others considered in the past.

While no direct poll communication referenced to this bill specifically was done, a quick reach out to random club's officers and directors, MSA representatives and MSA trails committee members overwhelmingly returned a response of current registration procedures with, "If it isn't broke, don't fix it".

What did return was a concern for trail width issues as a safety concern of the possible explosive growth of ATV/SxS's and the ability to track these vehicles for winter use should registration become easier. Many of the concerns returned included the following:

The tracked ATV/SxS footprint is wider (or much wider) than a current snowmobile.

ATV/SxS maneuverability, trail running speeds and groomer vs. ATV/SxS's traveling in opposite directions in many places will be compromised based on current trail widths.

Confusion of landowners granting snowmobile permission is concerning as to understanding of what comprises a snowmobile.

Trail support funding is currently widespread underfunded on both the ATV and Snowmobile systems and the thought of a combined registration would indicate the notion of a better deal. None should be offered from either angle.

An odd but extreme example of one of IFW enforcement tools for controlling imprudent speed opens a new avenue of concern. The "Left of Center" rule assumes an 8-12 foot trail where currently 4 feet is used for each direction of travel. This clearly would not be able to be enforced or better yet, physically negotiable.

The MSA understands that these vehicles have a place with some of the very same people pioneering snowmobiling at its infancy and these people may resort to such a winter vehicle. We wish not to close that door especially for whom may be landowners supporting and allowing the trail system. A reach out to Bill Swan of IFW returned info to MSA effectively stating that less than one percent of these vehicles currently exist registered as snowmobiles. We are in hopes these numbers remain similarly to where they are and MSA supports the path of dual registration that currently exists. MSA responses received were not in favor of a path to further provide a simpler way to register them.

Many Thanks,

John Monk

MSA Legislative Representative/18-19 Past President