

HOUSE BILL NO. 369

INTRODUCED BY ELLISON

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR OPERATION OF SNOWMOBILES BY PERSONS BETWEEN THE AGE OF 12 AND 16 YEARS WITHOUT A DRIVER'S LICENSE IF THEY ARE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT AND HAVE SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED A SNOWMOBILE SAFETY COURSE; AMENDING SECTION 53-1018, R.C.M. 1947."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 53-1018, R.C.M. 1947, is amended to read as follows:

*53-1018. Operation on public roads and streets.

(1) No person shall operate a snowmobile upon a controlled-access highway or facility at any time. Snowmobile operation may be permitted on the roadway or shoulder of any other public road or highway, state highway, county road, or city street located within the boundaries of any municipality, only in the event that said street, road, or highway is drifted or covered by snow to such an extent that travel thereon by other motor vehicles is impractical or impossible, or when the operator is in possession of a written permit for such travel, issued by the municipality in the case of town or city streets, the board of county

commissioners for county roads, or the state highway patrol for all other highways, or upon those streets of a municipality where such operation has been specifically so authorized by a duly enacted municipal ordinance.

(2) A snowmobile may make a direct crossing of a street or highway, where such crossing is necessary to get to another authorized area of operation. Such crossing shall be made at an angle of approximately ninety degrees (90) to the direction of the highway, at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing. The snowmobile shall make a complete stop before entering upon any part of the highway or road, and the operator shall yield the right of way to all oncoming traffic.

(3) No snowmobile shall be operated upon a public street or highway when permitted to do so by this act, unless equipped with at least one head lamp and one tail lamp, which shall be lighted at all times during such operation, and unless equipped with a suitable braking device which may be operated by either hand or foot.

(4) The operator of a snowmobile who operates his vehicle upon a public roadway, street or highway when allowed to do so under the provisions of this act shall, except as hereinafter provided, have in his possession a license to drive a motor vehicle as required by the laws of the state of Montana. A person between the age of 12 and 16

1 years who has satisfactorily completed the snowmobile safety
2 course conducted by the Montana snowmobile association and
3 who is accompanied by an adult is not required to have a
4 license to drive a motor vehicle as required above. An
5 operator who crosses a street, road, or highway, or who
6 operates a snowmobile in any other areas of the state where
7 operation is lawfully permitted, shall not be required to
8 apply for or possess a driver's license under the laws of
9 the state of Montana."

10 Section 2. This act is effective immediately on its
11 passage and approval.

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