



TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
HOUSE TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE  
ON HOUSE BILL 63  
OCTOBER 18, 2011

Chairman Stern, Chairman Kirkland, members of the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee and staff my name is Fred Brown and I am here today on behalf of the Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association to offer a bit of history and comment on House Bill 63.

First I would like to thank Chairman Stern for his work in bringing this legislation to the Committee and his efforts since the bill's introduction in working with PSSA and the administration in an effort to bring forth the best possible product.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge his efforts Rep. Hanna and staff for his willingness in the last session and the session to be the prime sponsor of this legislation on the association's behalf.

This legislation when passed and signed by the governor will create a vintage snowmobile permit in the Commonwealth.

Under the terms of the bill a one-time fee of \$10 would be charged to register a vintage snowmobile. A vintage snowmobile is one that is 25 years or older. Vintage snowmobiles registered under this Act would only be ridden at an event for vintage snowmobiles.

By way of history, in the last session, this proposal was House Bill 1171 during the course of negotiations with DCNR and then Transportation Committee Chairman Joe Markosek, PSSA was able to negotiate a product which you have before you, with the exception of the cost of the permit.

Since the introduction of this proposal PSSA has maintained that the price of the permit should be set at \$10. At that time DCNR was supporting a fee of \$35. DCNR at the time had

estimated the cost of the transaction to be \$1.50. PSSA believed and continues to believe that because of the extremely limited opportunity of individuals to utilize the permit to ride in a vintage event that \$35 was far more than was necessary for the opportunity to permit a vintage sled.

House Bill 1171 did pass the House with a fee of \$35. As the legislative session was drawing to a close and because only one vehicle code bill was in a position to pass finally, PSSA sought the support of the sponsor of House Bill 1800 and the support of Sen. John Wozniak to amend House Bill 1800 with the exact language that you find in House Bill 63 at a permit fee of \$10.

It was conveyed to me then by the prime sponsor of HB1800 that DCNR would ask the governor to veto the bill over the difference of the fee, and that the House leadership at the time would not move House Bill 1800 forward unless there was an agreement by the prime sponsor to remove the vintage snowmobile language.

In this session, I was advised that the administration and the department had issues with House Bill 63.

Several meetings were held with the governor's Deputy Legislative Director and on two occasions with Chairman Stern and his staff and a staff member from Rep. Hanna's office to discuss the concerns the administration had with a proposal.

In mid-September, a meeting was held that involved representatives from DCNR, the governor's legislative and policy offices, Rep. Stern's and Hanna's offices and PSSA.

Representatives of DCNR and the governor's office

expressed the following concerns:

- 1.) How to determine if a snowmobile is 25 years of age or older;
- 2.) Loss of funds to the snowmobile/ATV fund; and,
- 3.) What is a vintage snowmobile event.

Each of these concerns were fully aired and it was my belief when we left that meeting the department and the policy office where to draft language that they would feel comfortable with regarding the definition of "vintage snowmobile event". Several weeks after that meeting I received language not only proposing changes to the definition of "vintage snowmobile event" but also language offered by the administration to go with a fixed year of manufacture instead of the '25 years of age or older' language as to what constitutes a vintage snowmobile.

We agree with the department's definition of vintage snowmobile event and would support it when the committee considers the bill for action. (copy attached)

Regarding establishing a fixed year for determining whether a snowmobile is vintage is not in keeping with the direction that snow belt states have gone on this subject. In fact, one state that has a fixed date is in the process of passing legislation to go a 25-year model. Therefore we would oppose changing that definition. As we will show you there are reliable ways to identify the year in which a snowmobile was manufactured. Please also note that DCNR has been registering snowmobiles since the early 70s.

On behalf of the associations members and the more than 40,000 registered snowmobile owners we look forward to working with the committee in bringing this aspect of

snowmobiling to fruition. We believe this to be a positive step forward in helping to broaden opportunities for vintage owners, assisting our all volunteer clubs in their fundraising efforts, educating the public on the history of our sport and it will add to the overall value that snowmobiling brings to the Pennsylvania economy.

Again, Chairman Stern, Kirkland members and staff of the committee thank you for this opportunity we look forward to responding to your questions.

**Proposed amendments to HB 63, P.N. 829**

Amend Bill, page 2, line 9, by striking out "THAT IS AT LEAST 25 YEARS OLD" and inserting

That was manufactured on or before January 1, 1980

Amend Bill, page 2, line 12 by striking out "A RIDE OR RALLY INTENDED FOR THE" and inserting

An organized ride or rally

Amend Bill, page 2, lines 13-14 by deleting these lines and replacing them with

for owners and operators of vintage snowmobiles for which a permit has been issued pursuant to Section 7718 (a) and carried and exhibited in compliance with Section 7718 (b) and which meets all of the following conditions: it is open to the public and publicized as such; it takes place on a specified date and within a specified start and end time; and it takes place on a designated trail with a specified beginning and end point.

Amend Bill, page 3, line 14 by striking out "AND THE OWNER"

Amend Bill, page 3, line 15 by striking out "THEREOF CARRIES A VALID VINTAGE SNOWMOBILE PERMIT"