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TRANSFER SNOWMOBILE ENFORCEMENT

House Bill 5818

Sponsor: Rep. Tom Alley

Committee: Conservation, Environment
and Recreation

Complete to 5-5-98

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5818 AS INTRODUCED 4-30-98

The bill would require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in consultation with the Michigan Snowmobile Advisory Committee, to develop and present to the legislature a plan to shift enforcement of Part 821 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA), which regulates snowmobiles, from the DNR to those local governmental units or groups that agreed to provide this enforcement. In addition, the bill would make the following changes to the NREPA:

- Raise, from 17 to 18, the age of persons who are required to participate in snowmobile safety education and training programs, and who could be fined \$25 if found operating a snowmobile without a safety certificate.
- Include a "snowmobile code of ethics" in the minimum required content of a snowmobile safety education and training program.
- Increase the current fee of \$10 that is charged for a snowmobile trails permit in increments as follows: \$10 until September 30, 1998; \$15 beginning October 1, 1998 until September 30, 2001; \$20 beginning October 1, 2001 until September 30, 2004; and \$25 beginning October 1, 2004.
- Delete the current provision that \$9 from each snowmobile permit fee be credited to the Recreational Snowmobile Trail Improvement Fund.
- Prohibit the operation or sale of a snowmobile manufactured after January 1, 1999, that is wider than 48 inches.

Juvenile Operators. Currently, under the NREPA, a person between the ages of 12 and 17 years of age may only operate a snowmobile under certain conditions, one of which is the requirement that the person be under the supervision of a person 21 years of age or older. Under House Bill 5818, the provisions would apply to a person between the ages of 12 and 18. The act also specifies that an operator younger than 12 years of age cannot cross a highway or street, and that an operator between the ages of 12 and 17 may cross only if he or she possesses a valid snowmobile safety certificate. Under the bill, these provisions would apply to operators 14 years

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of age, and between the ages of 14 and 18, respectively. The act also specifies that a judge must report a person under 17 years of age to the DNR when the person has violated the provisions of Part 821 of the act. Under the bill, this provision would apply to a person under 18 years of age.

MCL 324.82107a et al.

Analyst: R. Young

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.