

H E A R I N G  
M I N U T E S -- Session 57th

**Assembly**

ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC RESOURCES & FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE-Room 131

February 28, 1973

Members Present:	Chairman Bremner	Broadbent
	Vice-Chairman Crawford	Jacobsen
	Ford	Lowman
	Gojack	Smalley
	Banner	
Members Absent:	None	
Guests:	Earl Landrus	Snowmobiler
	Fred Cuthbert	Pres. of Reno Snowmobile Club
	Stan Warren	Nevada Bell
	Orme Kilburn	Snowmobiler
	Annette Mankins	Snowmobiler
	Virginia Mankins	Snowmobiler
	Roxanne Mankins	Snowmobiler
	Nell Smith	Snowmobiler
	Grace Bordewich	League of Women Voters
	Emily Greil	Herself
	Dorcus P. Criteser	Sierra Club-Toiyabe Chapter
	Thomas D. Newton	Search and Rescue Team
	John A. Flanders	Flanders Cycle and Marine
	Dennis Steiner	
	Vaun Bradley	Nevada Off-Road Vehicles-Pres
	Don Wilson	Snowmobile Business in Reno
	Bruce Susong	Rental Operator
	Donald Wright	United States Snowmobile Asso

Chairman Bremner called the meeting to order at 8:14 a.m. He announced that this hearing is being held to hear testimony on A.B. 268 regulating the operation of snowmobiles; specifying permitted areas of operation; prohibiting certain acts; requiring certain operating equipment; providing duties in case of snowmobile accident; and providing penalties.

FOR:

Dorcus Criteser was first called upon to testify. Ms. Criteser, member of the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, spoke in favor of A.B. 268. She thought that this bill would make people more responsible in the use of snowmobiles. She mentioned about avalanches and the danger of causing them with the snowmobiles going through. Age of users will become desirable, and the registration of these vehicles be considered with a possible fee.

AGAINST:

Thomas Newton, next testified representing the Search and Rescue Team of which he is director. He said that the main concern is the use of the snowmobile on private land. He spoke that people who will rent a mobile or has one of their own, should know the terrain in which they would be traveling in. Mr. Newton has owned a snowmobile for four years, and he said that the only time he saw a wildlife creature, was five weeks

\* See Ex. I

ago out of the years he has been traveling in one. He said that game, such as deer, cannot survive at the higher elevations anyway in the winter.

Questions:

Mr. Smalley asked what parts in the bill did Mr. Newton object to because certain parts of this bill would not have any effect on him. Mr. Newton answered that the private land section he was opposed to, because of the fact that it would be hard to tell whether you are on private land or not if the snow covers the posting. Another one he objected to was about the lights and equipment, and said that the manufacturers are doing more to be protective in building these machines.

Mr. Crawford asked how many people on the staff and how much equipment they have. Mr. Newton answered that they have about 15 personnel that are trained in all works of the rescue and search team, and survival. He said that they personnel are responsible for their equipment and they furnish their own snowmobiles.

Mr. Jacobsen asked what Mr. Newton thought about posted private lands, and he answered that he felt there are already enough laws in the books that cover this subject, and they need to be enforced more. Mr. Jacobsen continued and asked if there were any problems with thefts of snowmobiles, and Mr. Newton said that theft happens, but very rarely and could be found by serial numbers put on them.

FOR:

Emily Greil, speaking for herself, testified in favor of this bill, because of the air pollution they cause when driven. She said that tracks from the snowmobiles provide tracks for the coyotes and dogs to follow easier and get after the game. Ms. Greil went on to say that she has heard complaints from friends that people still drive these vehicles very late at night and cause these residents to lose sleep.

Questions:

Dr. Broadbent asked if any of the parts of the bill that she found objective, and she answered that she did not read it very thoroughly, but did think the bill very interesting of what she did read.

Mr. Smalley brought out the fact that with the outboard motor on these vehicles, it is natural for them to produce a little pollution anytime. Also, he said that since the "poisoning campaign" ended, the coyotes might be increasing at such a rapid rate that they seem to be going to places they aren't usually at.

AGAINST:

Chairman Bremner then called Mr. Vaun Bradley, who is Vice-president of Region One of the Nevada Off-Road Vehicle Association. He mentioned that as the bill is written, it is very well stated, and he is about 95% in agreement with it. But, he stated he was in opposition to the private property section and also about the one foot snow level section. To the latter, he explained that this type of thing would only harm the machine, and did not think it could hurt the vegetation at all. He also stated that the noise pollution statement should be changed so that during a public event that the noise restriction be withdrawn. He also brought up that he thought that the minimum fine for a subsequent conviction be down to \$50 instead of \$100.

Questions:

Dr. Broadbent asked what department Mr. Bradley thought would register these snowmobiles; the Department of Motor Vehicles, or the Fish and Game Department, and Mr. Bradley did not know.

Mrs. Ford asked if Tahoe Meadows is supervised or just a place the public created as a designated area for their snow activities. Mr. Bradley said that this meadow is not really a designated area, and some of the land is private and the meadow is owned by the forest service who permit the public to use for their tobogganing, sledding, and snowmobiling.

Mr. Banner commented that he didn't agree with Mr. Bradley's comment that the bill was well written, and said that there are certain parts that are not very reasonable.

Mrs. Gojack asked Mr. Bradley's opinion on the minimum age, and he answered that he believed in it and that minors should be under supervision of an adult, but the adult not necessarily needs to be a licensed driver.

Annette Mankins, housewife and mother, also spoke against this bill. She mentioned that there should not be any age limit, because her daughter and niece ride their own little snowmobiles, and they really enjoy it, and her 70-year old aunt enjoys riding these as much as the children do. About the snow depth, she said that they mostly stay in deeper snow anyway, and only cross parts with less than a foot of snow very rarely.

Mr. Fred Cuthbert, President of the Reno Snowmobile Club, also spoke in opposition to A.B. 268. He discussed the by-laws that the club already has. He did not agree with the one foot snow depth, and the section concerning private lands. He mentioned that in North Dakota and Minnesota, it is required that the property owners post their land at either 60 yards or 600 feet (he wasn't quite sure) and it be dated and clearly seen and has to be posted each single year in order to be legal.

Questions:

Dr. Broadbent asked how many people that belong to his club and how many organizations in operation in Nevada now. Mr. Cuthbert answered that there are about 80 families as members, and about 8 or 10 other organizations in operation throughout Nevada, but he wasn't really sure how many.

Mr. Lowman did not understand why Mr. Cuthbert thought that property owners should go out of their way and spend money on posting their land just for the snowmobilers.

Chairman Bremner then called a five-minute break. The hearing was called back to order at 9:16 a.m. and the Chairman explained the absence of Mr. Capurro, who was going to testify about the reasons for certain sections of this bill. The next witness was called to testify.

Mr. Donald Wright, President of the United States Snowmobile Association, confronted the committee. He spoke of a bill passed in California taking care of the registration of the snowmobile, and since this type of subject was not listed in this bill, was hoping that Mr. Capurro would be in agreement of amending the bill for registration of these vehicles. He talked about the one foot snow depth, and mentioned "grass drags", which occur during the summer with the use of snowmobiles and does not hurt the vegetation at all, so if the snow is less than one foot deep, he could not see how this would hurt the ground during the winter. In reference to the property that is private, Mr. Wright concluded that it is sometimes impossible to see if you are on private property or not.

Questions:

Dr. Broadbent asked who Mr. Wright thinks should register the snowmobiles, and he answered that in California, it is done by the Department of Motor Vehicles under the class of Off-Road Vehicles.

Mrs. Ford asked about Nevadans who cross the border into California,

and Mr. Wright said that all they need to have is a driver's license to be legal.

AGAINST:

Next to testify was Mr. John Flanders, owner of Flander's Cycle and Marine, which also deals with snowmobiles. He spoke of private lands and Indian lands, and argued with the same reasons as others who spoke previously. Also objected to one foot snow depth, and was wondering whether it meant packed or powdered snow. He stated opinion on the decibels required and said that it would be hard to sell snowmobiles if limitation of noise is down to 78 decibels because in the higher elevations (which he states this 78 decibels is tested for sea level) the vehicle will not operate effeciently, because it will get too hot too soon. He discussed the age limit and said that it should be up to the parents to decide whether they think their child should operate a snowmobile or not. He concluded by inviting the committee members to see a snowmobile and operate one if they would like.

Mr. Bruce Susong, a rental operator, next testified in opposition to this bill. He objected to the same main sections as previous speakers. He gave information about his business, where he rents snowmobiles over a ten-acre lot, and leads guided "snow-faris" and offered the committee members to visit the business and he would make arrangements to take them on a "snow-fari". He concluded that he thought that there should be an age limit for those under 14 years of age should have parental guidance.

Orme Kilburn, an interested snowmobiler, spoke against this bill. He felt that Section 9, paragraph 7 about the decibel limit should be eliminated. The reason is because this paragraph also states that "a snowmobile shall not be modified by any person in any manner that may amplify or increase total noise...". He mentioned that in racing with snowmobiles, they will not be able to use modified vehicles anymore, so they will have to start buying stock cars, and then they would have to modify it to be able to race it. If this decibel limit is withdrawn in case of public events, then this paragraph would not let the racers modify their machines for racing. Mr. Kilburn hoped they would eliminate this part of this paragraph and also designate areas in which they could test their snowmobiles while modifying them. In regards to age, Mr. Kilburn says that there are a lot of children who are responsible in use of the snowmobile and that education would be best for children, and did not believe an age limit should not be on it.

Mr. Wright asked to be heard, and invited the committee members to the California Legislative Play Day in the Snow on March 23rd, and said that he would notify them of any further information very soon.

Virginia Mankins, a snowmobiler, wanted to comment that snowmobiling is a family sport and great recreation for families.

Earl Landrus, a snowmobiler also, could not understand why all this discussion and such on this bill. He felt this was a waste of time, and the passage of this bill will only complicate things. He brought up that it would be very hard to catch people violating any of the laws because there aren't police that would be around.

Mr. Don Wilson, from a snowmobile business in Reno next testified about this bill. He felt that the legislation is picking only on the snowmobilers, and said there are already laws existing and all they need is to be enforced that would cover the snowmobilers.

Questions:

Dr. Broadbent assured that this legislation is not singling out snowmobilers, and there are plenty of other bills being considered about other outdoor activities.

Mr. Flanders requested that Mr. Capurro's reasons be stated in the press, so that all interested parties could read what he has to say.

Mr. Stan Warren was last to speak, who is from the Nevada Bell Company. He suggested an amendment to section 3, where it should not apply to ~~Utilities Under the jurisdiction of the Nevada Public Service Commission.~~ (This request is attached)

Respectfully Submitted,

Geanie Armstrong  
Assembly Attache

EX I

MR. STAN WARREN  
NEVADA BELL

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AMENDMENT TO NEVADA ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 268

Amendment No. 1

On page 2, after line 24, of Section 3, add subsection 6. " This  
Section shall not apply to utilities under the jurisdiction of the Nevada  
Public Service Commission"



ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC RESOURCES & FISH AND GAME COMMITTEESTAND ON BILLS THUS FAR

<u>BILL</u>	<u>SUMMARY</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
A.B. 52	Limits sale of detergents containing phosphates.	None this far
A.B. 98	Prohibits personal garbage hauling in unincorporated county franchise areas.	Indef. Postponed
A.B. 121	Requires permit to operate a public water supply; requires approval of health authority before constructing or altering a public water supply.	Indef. Postponed
A.B. 131 have	Requires certain beverage containers to have a refund value and prohibits sale of certain metal beverage containers.	Pass as Amended
A.B. 139	Designates desert Bighorn Sheep as official state animal.	Pass as Amended
A.B. 141	Restricts removal of flora.	Pass as Amended
A.B. 177	Enacts Environmental Quality Act.	Indef. Postponed
A.B. 197	Reorganizes structure of state and county fish and game administration.	None this far
A.B. 268	Regulates operation of snowmobiles.	Pass as Amended
A.B. 449	Designates state land use planning agency and requires development of statewide land use planning process and land use program.	None this far
A.J.R. 9	Memorializes the Congress of the U.S. to enact legislation enabling Nevada park system to acquire jurisdiction over Red Rock Recreation Lands.	Do Pass

