

**House File 628 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 628

BY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 537)

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 176)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to snowmobile user permits and registration  
2 fees.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321G.3, Code 2017, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 **321G.3 Registration and user permit required — penalties.**

4 1. Each snowmobile used by a resident on public land, public  
5 ice, or a designated snowmobile trail of this state shall be  
6 currently registered in this state pursuant to [section 321G.4](#).  
7 A resident shall not operate, maintain, or give permission  
8 for the operation or maintenance of a snowmobile on public  
9 land, public ice, or a designated snowmobile trail unless the  
10 snowmobile is registered in accordance with [this chapter](#).

11 ~~The owner of a snowmobile must also obtain a user permit in~~  
12 ~~accordance with [section 321G.4A](#).~~

13 2. A violation of [subsection 1](#) is punishable as a scheduled  
14 violation under [section 805.8B, subsection 2](#), paragraph "a".  
15 When the scheduled fine is paid, the violator shall submit  
16 proof to the department that a valid registration and user  
17 ~~permit have~~ has been obtained by providing a copy of the  
18 registration and user permit to the department within thirty  
19 days of the date the fine is paid. A person who violates this  
20 subsection is guilty of a simple misdemeanor.

21 Sec. 2. Section 321G.4, subsection 2, Code 2017, is amended  
22 to read as follows:

23 2. The owner of the snowmobile shall file an application for  
24 registration with the department through the county recorder  
25 of the county of residence in the manner established by the  
26 commission. The application shall be completed by the owner  
27 and shall be accompanied by a fee of ~~fifteen~~ thirty dollars and  
28 a writing fee as provided in [section 321G.27](#). A snowmobile  
29 shall not be registered by the county recorder until the  
30 county recorder is presented with receipts, bills of sale,  
31 or other satisfactory evidence that the sales or use tax has  
32 been paid for the purchase of the snowmobile or that the  
33 owner is exempt from paying the tax. A snowmobile that has  
34 an expired registration certificate from another state may be  
35 registered in this state upon proper application, payment of

1 all applicable registration and writing fees, and payment of a  
2 penalty of five dollars.

3 Sec. 3. Section 321G.4B, Code 2017, is amended to read as  
4 follows:

5 **321G.4B Nonresident requirements — penalties.**

6 1. A nonresident wishing to operate a snowmobile on public  
7 land, public ice, or a designated snowmobile trail of this  
8 state shall obtain a user permit ~~in accordance with section~~  
9 ~~321G.4A~~ from the department. A user permit shall be issued for  
10 use on only one snowmobile and is not transferable. A user  
11 permit shall be valid for the calendar year or time period  
12 specified in the permit. In addition to obtaining a user  
13 permit, a nonresident shall display a current registration  
14 decal or other evidence of registration or numbering required  
15 by the owner's state of residence unless the owner resides in a  
16 state that does not register or number snowmobiles.

17 2. A violation of **subsection 1** is punishable as a scheduled  
18 violation under **section 805.8B, subsection 2**, paragraph "a".  
19 When the scheduled fine is paid, the violator shall submit  
20 proof to the department that a user permit has been obtained  
21 and provide evidence of registration or numbering as required  
22 by the owner's state of residence, if applicable, to the  
23 department within thirty days of the date the fine is paid.  
24 A person who violates this section is guilty of a simple  
25 misdemeanor.

26 3. A county recorder or a license agent designated by the  
27 director pursuant to section 483A.11 may issue user permits.  
28 The fee for a user permit shall be fifteen dollars plus an  
29 administrative fee established by the commission. A county  
30 recorder or a license agent shall retain a writing fee from the  
31 sale of each user permit as provided in section 321G.27.

32 Sec. 4. Section 321G.5, Code 2017, is amended to read as  
33 follows:

34 **321G.5 Display of registration and user permit decals.**

35 The owner of a snowmobile shall display the registration

1 decal and user permit decal, if applicable, on the snowmobile  
2 in the manner prescribed by the rules of the commission.

3 Sec. 5. Section 321G.6, subsections 1 and 4, Code 2017, are  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 1. Every snowmobile registration certificate and  
6 registration decal issued expires at midnight December 31  
7 unless sooner terminated or discontinued in accordance with  
8 this chapter or rules of the commission. After the first  
9 day of September each year, an unregistered snowmobile  
10 may be registered and a registration may be renewed in one  
11 transaction. The fee is five dollars for the remainder of the  
12 current year, in addition to the registration fee of ~~fifteen~~  
13 thirty dollars for the subsequent year beginning January 1, and  
14 a writing fee as provided in [section 321G.27](#).

15 4. A county recorder or a license agent designated by the  
16 director pursuant to [section 483A.11](#) may issue snowmobile  
17 registration renewals electronically pursuant to rules adopted  
18 by the commission. The fee for a registration renewal issued  
19 using an electronic system is ~~fifteen~~ thirty dollars plus an  
20 administrative fee established by the commission and a writing  
21 fee as provided in [section 321G.27](#).

22 Sec. 6. Section 321G.7, subsection 2, Code 2017, is amended  
23 to read as follows:

24 2. The department shall remit the fees, including user  
25 permit fees collected pursuant to ~~section 321G.4A~~ [321G.4B](#),  
26 to the treasurer of state, who shall place the money in a  
27 special snowmobile fund. The money is appropriated to the  
28 department for the snowmobile programs of the state. The  
29 programs shall include grants, subgrants, contracts, or  
30 cost-sharing of snowmobile programs with political subdivisions  
31 or incorporated private organizations or both in accordance  
32 with rules adopted by the commission. Snowmobile fees may  
33 be used to support snowmobile programs on a usage basis. At  
34 least fifty percent of the special fund shall be available for  
35 political subdivisions or incorporated private organizations or

1 both. Moneys from the special fund not used by the political  
2 subdivisions or incorporated private organizations or both  
3 shall remain in the fund and may be used by the department for  
4 the administration of the snowmobile programs. Notwithstanding  
5 section 8.33, moneys in the special fund shall not revert to  
6 the general fund of the state at the end of a fiscal year.  
7 Notwithstanding [section 12C.7, subsection 2](#), interest or  
8 earnings on moneys in the special fund shall remain in the  
9 fund.

10 Sec. 7. Section 331.602, subsection 16, Code 2017, is  
11 amended to read as follows:

12 16. Issue snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle registrations  
13 and user permits as provided in [sections 321G.4, 321G.4A](#)  
14 [321G.4B, 321G.6, 321G.21, 321I.4, 321I.5, 321I.7, and 321I.22](#).

15 Sec. 8. Section 331.605, subsection 1, paragraph d, Code  
16 2017, is amended to read as follows:

17 *d.* For the issuance of snowmobile registrations and user  
18 permits, the fees specified in sections 321G.4 and ~~321G.4A~~  
19 [321G.4B](#).

20 Sec. 9. REPEAL. Section 321G.4A, Code 2017, is repealed.

21 EXPLANATION

22 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
23 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

24 This bill relates to snowmobile user permits and  
25 registration fees. The bill eliminates a requirement that a  
26 resident snowmobile operator must obtain a user permit from  
27 the department of natural resources in addition to registering  
28 the snowmobile to operate a snowmobile on public land, public  
29 ice, or a designated snowmobile trail of the state. The  
30 requirements to purchase a user permit and display registration  
31 of the snowmobile are still applicable to a nonresident  
32 snowmobile operator.

33 The bill raises the annual registration fee for a snowmobile  
34 from \$15 to \$30.