

**House File 73 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 73  
BY MEGGERS

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act requiring persons to pass a written test and obtain  
2 an education certificate prior to operating an all-terrain  
3 vehicle, off-road motorcycle, or off-road utility vehicle on  
4 certain land, ice, and trails, providing fees, and making  
5 penalties applicable.

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

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1 Section 1. Section 321I.1, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code  
2 2025, is amended to read as follows:

3 b. Off-road motorcycles shall be considered all-terrain  
4 vehicles for the purpose of registration. Off-road motorcycles  
5 shall also be considered all-terrain vehicles for the purpose of  
6 titling if a title has not previously been issued pursuant to  
7 chapter 321. An operator of an off-road motorcycle is subject  
8 to provisions governing the operation of all-terrain vehicles  
9 in this chapter, ~~but is exempt from the education instruction~~  
10 ~~and certification program requirements of sections 321I.25 and~~  
11 ~~321I.26.~~

12 Sec. 2. Section 321I.1, subsection 11, Code 2025, is amended  
13 to read as follows:

14 11. "*Education certificate*" means an all-terrain vehicle  
15 education certificate, approved by the commission, which is  
16 issued to a qualified applicant ~~who is twelve years of age or~~  
17 ~~older.~~

18 Sec. 3. Section 321I.1, subsection 17, paragraph b, Code  
19 2025, is amended to read as follows:

20 b. The operator of an off-road utility vehicle is subject  
21 to provisions governing the operation of all-terrain vehicles in  
22 section 321.234A, this chapter, and administrative rules, ~~but is~~  
23 ~~exempt from the education instruction and certification program~~  
24 ~~requirements of sections 321I.25 and 321I.26.~~ An operator of  
25 an off-road utility vehicle shall not operate the vehicle on  
26 a designated riding area or designated riding trail unless the  
27 department has posted signage indicating the riding area or  
28 trail is open to the operation of off-road utility vehicles.  
29 Off-road utility vehicles are subject to the dealer registration  
30 and titling requirements of this chapter. A motorized vehicle  
31 that was previously titled or is currently titled under chapter  
32 321 shall not be registered or operated as an off-road utility  
33 vehicle.

34 Sec. 4. Section 321I.25, subsection 3, Code 2025, is amended  
35 to read as follows:

1 3. Upon completion of the course of instruction, the  
2 commission shall provide for the administration of either a  
3 written test ~~or the demonstration of adequate riding skills~~ to  
4 any student who wishes to qualify for an education certificate.

5 Sec. 5. Section 321I.26, subsections 1 and 3, Code 2025, are  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 1. A person ~~twelve years of age or older but less than~~  
8 ~~eighteen years of age~~ shall not operate an all-terrain vehicle,  
9 off-road utility vehicle, or off-road motorcycle on public  
10 land, public ice, a designated riding trail, or land purchased  
11 with all-terrain vehicle registration funds in this state  
12 without obtaining a valid education certificate approved by the  
13 department and having the certificate in the person's possession.  
14 This subsection does not apply if the operation is part of  
15 a prescribed education training course and the operation is  
16 under the direct supervision of a certified all-terrain vehicle  
17 education instructor.

18 3. Any person who is required to have an education  
19 certificate under this chapter and who has completed a course  
20 of instruction established under section 321I.2, subsection 1,  
21 paragraph "i", including the successful passage of an examination  
22 which includes either a written test relating to such course of  
23 instruction ~~or the demonstration of adequate riding skills~~, shall  
24 be considered qualified to receive an education certificate.

25 EXPLANATION

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

28 Under current law, a person 12 years of age or older but less  
29 than 18 years of age is required to obtain a valid education  
30 certificate approved by the department of natural resources (DNR)  
31 prior to, and have the certificate in the person's possession  
32 while, operating an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) on public land,  
33 public ice, a designated riding trail, or land purchased with  
34 ATV registration funds in Iowa. Persons operating an off-road  
35 motorcycle or off-road utility vehicle (UTV) are excepted

1 from the education instruction, certificate, and associated fee  
2 requirements.

3 This bill strikes such exceptions for off-road motorcycles and  
4 UTVs and the age range associated with education certificates.  
5 As a result, the bill requires every person to obtain a valid  
6 education certificate approved by DNR prior to, and have the  
7 certificate in the person's possession while, operating an ATV,  
8 off-road motorcycle, or UTV on public land, public ice, a  
9 designated riding trail, or land purchased with ATV registration  
10 funds in Iowa. A person is not required to possess an education  
11 certificate if the operation is part of a prescribed education  
12 training course and the operation is under the direct supervision  
13 of a certified ATV education instructor. The bill does not amend  
14 similar education certification requirements in Code chapter 321G  
15 (snowmobiles) for persons 12 though 17 years of age operating a  
16 snowmobile in Iowa.

17 Under current law, the fee for an education certificate is  
18 \$5 and an education certificate must be issued to a qualified  
19 applicant who successfully completes an education course and pays  
20 the fee. The fees are credited to the special ATV fund and must  
21 be used for educational programs. Any person who has completed  
22 a course of instruction established under DNR rules, including  
23 the successful passage of an examination which includes either  
24 a written test relating to such course of instruction or the  
25 demonstration of adequate riding skills, is considered qualified  
26 to receive an education certificate. An education certificate  
27 does not expire and remains valid until the certificate is  
28 suspended or revoked by the DNR director as a result of a Code  
29 chapter 321I (ATVs) law or rule violation.

30 The bill strikes the ability of a person who wishes to obtain  
31 an education certificate to do so by demonstrating adequate  
32 riding skills, thus requiring all such persons to successfully  
33 complete a written test. This aligns these provisions with  
34 the written test requirements for students qualifying for a  
35 snowmobile education certificate under current law.

1 A person who is required to have a valid education certificate  
2 and who operates an ATV, UTV, or off-road motorcycle without  
3 a valid education certificate commits a simple misdemeanor  
4 punishable by a \$70 scheduled fine.

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