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PENALTIES FOR SNOWMOBILE ACCIDENTS

House Bill 5717

Sponsor: Rep. James McNutt

Committee: Conservation, Environment
and Recreation

Complete to 5-5-98

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5717 AS INTRODUCED 3-26-98

House Bill 5717 would add a new section to Part 821 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA), which regulates snowmobiles, to establish civil and criminal penalties for operating a snowmobile recklessly. The provisions of the bill would apply to driving on a highway, public trail, frozen surface of a public lake, stream, river, pond, or another public place, including, but not limited to, an area designated for snowmobile or motor vehicle parking.

Civil Infraction. Under the bill, operating a snowmobile in a careless or negligent manner likely to endanger another person or property would be a civil infraction.

Criminal Penalties. The bill would establish the following criminal violations:

- Operating a snowmobile in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property would be a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for up to 90 days, a fine of up to \$500, or both. In addition, the court could issue an order prohibiting the person from operating a snowmobile in the state for up to two years.
- Operating a snowmobile at an immoderate rate of speed, or in a careless or negligent manner, but not willfully or wantonly, so as to cripple or cause the death of another would be a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for up to two years, a fine of up not more than \$2,000, or both.
- Operating a snowmobile in a careless and heedless manner, in willful and wanton disregard of others' rights or safety or without due caution and circumspection, and at a speed or manner likely to endanger any person or property, so as to cripple but not cause the death of another, would be a felony, punishable by imprisonment for up to two years, a fine of up to \$2,000, or both.

MCL 324.82126a 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.