



ERIK SEVERSON

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 28TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Testimony on Senate Bill 32 Senate Committee on Transportation, Public Safety, and Veterans and Military Affairs

March 14, 2013

I would like to thank Chairman Petrowski and the members of the committee for holding a hearing on Senate Bill 32. I would also like to thank Sen. Leibham for his leadership on this important issue. I apologize that I am not able to be here in person but wanted to submit a copy of my testimony along with registering my support for this legislation.

Wisconsin has a proud and long-standing commitment to outdoor activities, including riding ATVs and UTVs. It is important that we get young adults involved at an early age in order to continue to grow and support outdoor activities. This legislation will make several changes to the operation of ATVs and UTVs in Wisconsin as a way to continue to facilitate that growth.

Senate Bill 32 increases first-time ridership by providing an exemption from the ATV rider certification requirement for individuals trying out ATVs or UTVs at demonstration events. Additionally, this legislation establishes new flexibilities for young adults to ride on land owned by family and friends.

As with any outdoor activities, we also need to ensure the safety of riders as well as other individuals enjoying our great natural resources. Senate Bill 32 creates increased safety protections for people, specifically young adults, riding near roadways and other high traffic areas. I am honored to be working with Sen. Leibham on this legislation in order to grow one of Wisconsin's great outdoor traditions.

Thank you again Chairman Petrowski and Committee Members for taking the time to hold this public hearing and I look forward to working with you on passage of this legislation.

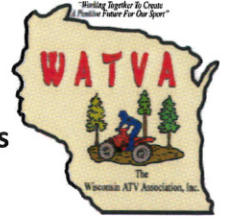
03/14/13 - Public Hearing

Testimony by Randy Harden of the Wisconsin ATV Association (WATVA)

Senate Committee on Transportation, Public Safety, and Veteran & Military Affairs

Chair – Senator Petrowski

Senators Leibham, Cowles, Carpenter and Hansen



SB 32 - Relating to age restrictions and safety certificate requirements regarding the operation of an ATV

Requesting your support for SB 32

A change for under youth under age 12 on private property

A change for youth age 12 through 15 on public road routes

A change for those born on or after 1/1/1988 under certain conditions

A change for mandatory speeds on road routes under certain conditions

- Parallels the Youth Hunting Mentorship program by creating parent or parent approved adult oversight (grandparents, uncle/aunt, etc.) for youth under age 12 on private property other than their parent's. Grandparents could legally take an under age 12 grandchild on a small ATV (90cc or less) under their **ACCOMPANIMENT** on private property not owned by the parent's. This bill **strengthens** the oversight requirement by **requiring** the parent approved adult to **accompany** the youth at all times when ATV riding is not on the parent's own property.
- This bill strengthens the oversight requirement for youth, ages 12 - 15, while riding legal road routes by requiring the parent, or a parent approved adult, to accompany these aged youth. Current law allows a 12 -15 year old to legally ride alone on road routes, after passing the Wisconsin DNR ATV safety course.
- Allows an opportunity to test ride ATVs and UTVs without the DNR safety certificate as long as the activity is supervised (accompanied by) with safety gear mandated, operated at slower speeds and in a controlled environment. Currently anyone born on or after 1/1/1988 (which affects 12 through 25 year olds this year) cannot test ride an ATV without first passing the ATV DNR safety course.
- This bill allows ATV / UTV road route speeds to be set by the local jurisdiction versus the state mandate of the 10 mph requirement when the road route is within 150' of a dwelling or 100' of a person. In many locations across Wisconsin, the 10 mph route requirement impedes traffic flow, thereby creating an unsafe riding environment. As under current administrative code, the 10 mph requirement would still apply to public trails and recreational use on public frozen waterways in relationship to people and dwellings. An amendment will be presented to clarify the 10 mph speed will not apply on frozen waterways when applicable to spectators at legitimate race competitions on the ice.

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