



The Senate of the State of New Hampshire

107 North Main Street, Concord, N.H. 03301-4951

August 1, 2019

Commissioner Victoria Sheehan
NH Department of Transportation
7 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03302

Dear Commissioner Sheehan,

In view of the continuing controversy over the OHRV/snowmobile road crossing of Rte. 114 in Henniker, I am writing to make abundantly clear the intent of the amendment to HB 237 (2017) that I submitted. It is attached. Put simply, the law opened the existing snowmobile crossing to OHRVs. It is my understanding that after the bill was signed, this crossing was used last riding season without incident. In fact, the crossing at that location contains extended benefits in that it significantly reduces OHRV use and pressure in other parts of the Mink Hills riding area, which is very important to constituents in Warner and Henniker. Recently this crossing was altered due to needed replacement of a degrading bridge. I am happy to hear that the permits for bridge replacements are in place and work will begin shortly.

Your agency's employees are now telling the Bureau of Trails that DOT's interpretation of HB 237 is that OHRV use is for the side of the road only, and that a separate public hearing and permitting process must be held in order to allow OHRVs to make use of the trail following the completion of the bridge. Not only are there safety concerns, this interpretation is completely inconsistent with the 2017 law. Although I appreciate your department's efforts in maintaining an on road connector while the bridge is replaced, requiring an entire process, as if this connector was a new trail, hints of the type of avoidable bureaucratic delay that only serves to incense the public.

Please kindly address this immediately. I look forward to your response. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Feltes".

Senator Dan Feltes
NH Senate District 15

Cc: Governor Chris Sununu

CHAPTER 236
HB 237 - FINAL VERSION

04/20/2017 1370s
22Jun2017... 2299CofC

2017 SESSION

17-0427
10/04

HOUSE BILL **237**

AN ACT establishing a committee to study helmet and restraint laws for youth operators and passengers of OHRVs and snowmobiles, and relative to a trail connector in the town of Henniker.

SPONSORS: Rep. Steven Smith, Sull. 11

COMMITTEE: Transportation

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study helmet and restraint laws for youth operators and passengers of OHRVs and snowmobiles. The bill also designates an OHRV crossing and trail connector in the town of Henniker.

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Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
 Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through~~].
 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

CHAPTER 236
HB 237 - FINAL VERSION

04/20/2017 1370s
22Jun2017... 2299-CofC

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Seventeen

AN ACT establishing a committee to study helmet and restraint laws for youth operators and passengers of OHRVs and snowmobiles, and relative to a trail connector in the town of Henniker.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 236:1 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study helmet and restraint
2 laws for youth operators and passengers of OHRVs and snowmobiles.

3 236:2 Membership and Compensation.

4 I. The members of the committee shall be as follows:

5 (a) Four members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house
6 of representatives.

7 (b) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

8 II. Members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to
9 the duties of the committee.

10 236:3 Duties. The committee shall study helmet and restraint laws for youth operators and
11 passengers of OHRVs and snowmobiles. The committee shall solicit input and advice from state
12 agencies, OHRV and snowmobile organizations, and interested persons as necessary to accomplish
13 its study.

14 236:4 Chairperson; Quorum. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson
15 from among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named
16 house member. The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date
17 of this section. Three members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

18 236:5 Report. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed
19 legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house
20 clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2017.

21 236:6 New Subparagraph; Limitations of OHRV Operation on Class I, II, III, and III-a
22 Highways; Exception Added. Amend RSA 215-A:10, IV by inserting after subparagraph (c) the
23 following new subparagraph:

24 (d) The trail connector and crossing, located along and across Route 114 in the town of
25 Henniker, which connects to the southwest end of Mink Hill Road, shall be designated for OHRV
26 use during the months of May through November, provided that the town of Henniker and private
27 lands south of Route 114 continue to allow the public OHRV use on their properties.

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236:7 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved: July 18, 2017
Effective Date: July 18, 2017