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"Your Voice For ATV Recreation in Minnesota"

April 8, 2023

110 New Members This Year

Welcome...LET'S RIDE!

ATV Minnesota Legislative Update

April 7, 2023

By Ray Bohn, ATV MN Lobbyist

Important Update On The Status of ATV MN Bills

With the 2023 Legislative Session over half complete, Legislative committees worked hard to finish their finance bills by 5:00 pm on April 4, 2023, the finance committee deadline.



The Legislature then took their Easter/Passover break until April 11. All omnibus finance bills had to be reported out of their respective committees (Ways & Means and Finance) to their respective overall finance committees by finance committee deadline.

When the members return from their break on April 11, they will launch headlong into moving the omnibus finance and policy bills through these committees to the floor for floor action. After floor votes on the bills, they will be matched up and referred to various conference committees for final action. However, several obstacles remain.

First, the Senate is passing separate finance and policy bills for the most part, but the House is passing joint bills. How that issue will be resolved is yet to be determined. The second obstacle is how the conference committees will be structured. In other words, which omnibus bills are joined together to create a single conference committee? The need to appoint fewer conference committees is simply the result of not enough people to staff separate conference committees for each topic area. As always, we are sure all will be worked out and the work will go on. It does make it more challenging though.

We do have full dedicated funding in both the Senate & House Omnibus Finance Bills for the Voyageur and Prospector Trails, funding only in the Senate side for the Northwoods Trail, and no funding in either omnibus bill for the Warroad and FireFrost Trails. See the details below for more information.

There is full funding for our bonding request in the Senate general fund (HF670) Capital Investment bill. Unfortunately, the bonding bills have run into some roadblocks. The bonding and capital investment general fund bill were stalled in the Senate when the capital investment (bonding bill - HF669) was defeated on the Senate floor (3/5th majority vote needed for passage), the general fund capital investment bill then was not heard.

The DFL majority then announced that they plan on combining the capital investment bills (bonding & general fund) into one large general fund (cash) bill for capital investments. The GOP wants additional tax reductions before agreeing to use bonding for a capital investment bill. They view this strategy as the only leverage they have over DFL actions. The Senate majority is indicating that they will just use all cash instead of any bonding, thus enabling a simple majority vote to pass. Consequently, it does appear that there will be a fairly robust capital investment bill of some sort this year.

As we move into the final phase of the Session, most viable bills will be incorporated into the appropriate omnibus bill for final consideration. Below are ATV MN bills of interest, their present status, and which bills have been made part of an omnibus and which omnibus bill.

Dedicated Account Funding Status: The legislation below (HF593 & SF420) has been included in both the House Omnibus Finance Bill (HF 2310 –Hansen) Environment & Natural Resources Conference committee with the same language.

- Voyageur Trail Funding- Dedicated Account \$750,000: (HF593 Lislegard/SF420 Hauschild)
- Prospector ATV Trail - \$700,000 ATV Dedicated Account: (HF593 Lislegard/SF420 Hauschild)

Northwoods Regional Trail System SF 2170 Wesenberg: \$250,000 each year (\$500,000 total) was included in the Senate Omnibus Finance bill (SF2904), but not in the House Language. Appropriation will be in the Senate side of the Senate Omnibus Finance bill, but not the House side. (HF 2379 Davis) The House file was not heard in committee.

Roseau to Warroad Rail Bed Rehab HF 262 Burkel/SF552 Johnson: \$447,000 in FY24 to Roseau County sponsor working with the Northstar Trail Alliance and the Roseau/Lake of the Woods Sportsmans Club. Neither bill heard in committee but alive for action next session.

FireFrost ATV Trail (HF Keil2803/SF2978 Johnson): Engineering Feasibility Study for the future reconstruction of the Wild Rice River Bridge and the Marsh River Bridge. Neither bill heard in committee but alive for action next Session.

Bonding Legislation Funding Status:

SF 593 Lislegard/SF419 Hauschild has been incorporated in the Senate General Fund Capital Investment Bill HF670 on the Senate side. This bill passed the House Floor without SD593 included, but was added in Senate Finance committee (HF670 substituted) but has not passed the Senate floor.

St. Louis County: Voyageur ATV Trail - Bonding \$1,000,000 Capital Investment Bonding

St. Louis County: Prospectors ATV Trail - \$500,000 Capital Investment-Bonding

St. Louis County Quad Cities ATV Trail- - \$50,000 Capital Investment-Bonding

Policy Bills:

Excise Tax Exemption for ATV trail machinery, equipment, parts, materials and supplies. (HF2410L/SF1589Sen. Eichorn)

File #s TBD

Sales of tangible personal property, including grooming machines, attachments, other associated accessories, and repair parts, that is used primarily and directly for the grooming of state or Grant-in-Aid all-terrain vehicle trails. This bill is in the taxes committee in both bodies and can still be acted on.

ATV Definition Modifications: HF1763 Lislegard/SF1713 Hauschild
Removes requirement for “low pressure non-pneumatic” tires and increases total dry weight from 2,000 pounds to 3,000 pounds.

Neither of these bills has been heard in either Environment Policy Committees. SF1713 was scheduled in the Senate but the committee ran out of time at the hearing and it was not re-scheduled.

ATV Access to our Communities: HF/SF TBD:

Open state highways to ATVs within city limits to allow access to service. We are in the process of accessing this issue and will have a bill introduced prior to the end of this session to discuss with our legislators over the interim.

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Anti-ATV/OHV Legislation; SF1324Morrison/HF 2791 Pursell:

Land, water quality, aquatic life and wildlife protection from the effects of using certain motorized recreational trails; environmental assessment worksheet to construct or expand off-highway vehicle trail requirement. SF1324 was scheduled to be heard in the Senate Environment Committee but the committee ran out of time at the hearing and it was not re-scheduled. This bill is still alive for the 2024 session.

Photo above: (LtoR): Rep Paul Anderson, Rep Dean Urdahl, ATV MN lobbyists Ray Bohn and Tom Hackbarth visit at the March 8th ATV MN Legislative Reception.



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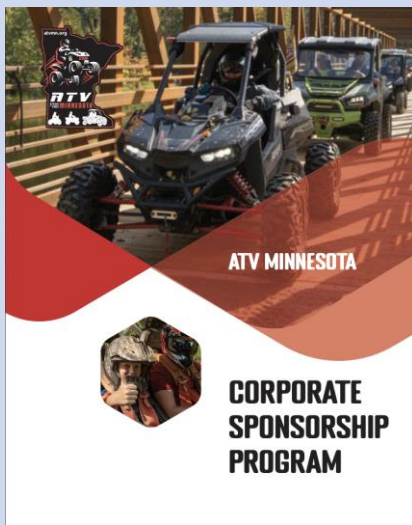
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- Twice-monthly newsletter by email with the latest news.
- Membership card and ATV MN logo sticker for your ATV.
- Invitations to events, including our Legislative Summit, Vision Conference, Ride & Roast in the spring, and State Convention "Ride & Rally" in the fall, as well as membership meetings.
- A full-time lobbyist at the State Capitol, helping create pro-ATV legislation, and moving forward bills that help provide funding for new trail systems.

As a business member, for \$75 you receive:

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- Your business name and contact information listed in our Minnesota Wheelin magazine and on the ATV Minnesota website
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 - Opportunities to reach more customers by sponsoring or donating to our events
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Thanks To Our First Corporate Sponsor: Bronco ATV/UTV

A full-throttle thank-you to Bronco ATV/UTV for being an ATV MN Corporate Sponsor at the Silver Level. Watch for an article about Bronco ATV/UTV, its history building everything from ball joints to winches, sales trends it is seeing, and more in the March/April issue of Minnesota Wheelin. Learn more about its many

products, including videos, at broncoatv.com.

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