

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DNR 12/6/2013

LRB Number	13-0101/1	Introduction Number	AB-0527	Estimate Type	Original
Description Operation of all-terrain vehicles and utility terrain vehicles on highways for the purpose of certain types of access and granting rule-making authority					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The bill authorizes local units of government to adopt ordinances allowing ATV or UTV operators age 16 and older to ride from their residence or place of lodging to the nearest trail or route as long as it is no further than 5 miles on a roadway other than a state highway. Speed is restricted to 25 m.p.h. If the roadway is a state highway, the municipality may authorize ATV or UTV operation up to a 1/4 mile in distance. If the distance is greater than 1/4 miles, the DOT must also approve the access if they determine ATV or UTV operation to be safe on that portion of state highway. The bill further provides that a municipality may not enact an ordinance allowing ATV or UTV access on any highway that is located in a state park or state forest if the operation of ATVs or UTVs is prohibited in the park or forest. Finally, the bill mandates the Department prepare model ordinances as examples of ordinances that a municipality may enact.

Fiscal Effect

Based on the increased ATV/UTV traffic on roadways it is expected that Conservation Wardens and County Sheriff patrols will experience additional, but indeterminate workload and costs in the following areas.

1. Complaint response as more ATVs and UTVs interact with motor vehicle operators, adjacent landowners and other citizens legally utilizing roadways or roadway right of ways for transportation such as bicycles, roller bladers, equestrians, walkers and joggers.
2. Crash investigation as based on increased interactions between motor vehicles and ATVs or UTVs. Also due to the fact that ATVs and UTVs are not designed nor deemed safe for operation on paved surfaces by all the major ATV and UTV manufacturers and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.
3. Customer service needs related to questions and ordinance reviews.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications