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House Bill 4515 (as passed by the House)
Sponsor: Representative Jenn Hill
House Committee: Transportation, Mobility and Infrastructure
Senate Committee: Transportation and Infrastructure

Date Completed: 10-9-23

CONTENT

The bill would amend Part 811 (Off-Road Recreation Vehicles) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to delete a provision prohibiting the collection of off-road vehicle (ORV) license fees after April 1, 2024.

The Act requires an individual to obtain an ORV license if operating an ORV under any of the following conditions:

- Except as otherwise provided by law, on or over land, snow, ice, or other natural terrain.
- On a forest trail or in a designated area.
- On a street, county road, or highway.

An ORV is not required to be licensed if it is used in a comprehensive program for training, is operated solely on private property by the owner of the property or an authorized user, is being operated on a free ORV-riding day as provided by Department of Natural Resources (DNR), or if the DNR waives the licensure requirement pursuant to a reciprocal agreement with another state.

To receive a license, an individual must apply to the DNR and pay one of the following required fees: 1) \$36.25, if the license authorizes operation of an ORV on State ORV trails; 2) for other uses, \$26.25. A license is valid for the 12-month period beginning April 1 and ending the following March 31.

Under the Act, the DNR may not charge a fee for a license beginning April 1, 2024. The bill would delete this sunset.

(Under the Act, "ORV" means a motor-driven off-road recreation vehicle capable of cross-country travel without benefit of a road or trail, on or immediately over land, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain. A multitrack or multi-wheel drive vehicle, a motorcycle or related two-wheel vehicle, a vehicle with three or more wheels, an amphibious machine, a ground effect air cushion vehicle, or other means of transportation may be an ORV. An all-terrain vehicle (ATV) is an ORV. The term does not include a registered snowmobile, a farm vehicle being used for farming, a vehicle used for military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement purposes, a vehicle owned and operated by a utility company or an oil or gas company when performing maintenance on its facilities or on property over which it has an easement, a construction or logging vehicle used in performance of its common function, or a registered aircraft.)

MCL 324.81116

Legislative Analyst: Abby Schneider

FISCAL IMPACT

This bill would remove the sunset that prohibits the DNR from collecting fees after April 1, 2024. Removing this sunset would have a positive fiscal impact on the DNR as it could continue collecting fees that accounted for \$11.4 million for the ORV Trail Improvement Fund and the ORV Safety Education Fund in Fiscal Year 2021-22. There is no anticipated fiscal impact for local units of government, and the DNR's costs are expected to remain consistent because the DNR already collects these fees.

Fiscal Analyst: Jonah Houtz

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.