

**TO:** Legislative Colleagues

**FROM:** Rep. Cody Horlacher and Sen. Andre Jacques

**DATE:** January 9<sup>th</sup> 2019

**RE:** Co-sponsorship of LRB 0812/1 and LRB 0173/1 – Relating to: the intoxicated operation of snowmobiles

**DEADLINE: Wednesday January 16th 5:00 PM**

As the winter season is upon us, so is the increased use of snowmobiles throughout the state. Snowmobile riding is a growing sport in Wisconsin but along with the privilege of enjoying the sport comes the responsibility of making sure you are operating snowmobiles safely and responsibly. Operating while intoxicated is a significant contributing factor for fatalities with any motorized vehicle.

According to the DNR Wisconsin Snowmobile Safety and Enforcement 2016-2017 Annual Report, there were sixteen snowmobile related fatalities and out of those fatalities, 65% had the involvement of alcohol. Also, sixteen drivers were arrested for operating a snowmobile with a BAC at or above 0.08%.

This legislation takes components from 2015 AB 803, previously having strong bi-partisan support and passed out of committee on a 11-0 vote. This bill will establish an absolute sobriety requirement for the purpose of operating a snowmobile for any person under the age of 21.

#### ***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

*This bill establishes an absolute sobriety requirement for the purpose of operating a snowmobile for any person under the age of 21. Under current law, no one may operate an all-terrain vehicle, utility terrain vehicle, off-highway motorcycle, boat, or snowmobile (recreational vehicle) with a prohibited alcohol concentration. Under most circumstances, a prohibited alcohol concentration is 0.08. For a person who has not attained the age of 21, current law requires absolute sobriety for the purpose of operating any recreational vehicle except for snowmobiles. For the purpose of operating a snowmobile, **absolute sobriety is required for a person who has not attained the age of 19**. This bill increases this age so that the absolute sobriety requirement applies to a person under the age of 21 operating any recreational vehicle.*

**To sign onto LRB 0812/1 or its Senate companion, LRB 0173/1, please contact Christina in Rep. Horlacher's office at (6-5715) or Nik in Senator Jacques's office at (6-3512) or by replying to this email by Wednesday January 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. The bill is also attached for your reference.**