

Act No. 240  
Public Acts of 2008  
Approved by the Governor  
July 17, 2008  
Filed with the Secretary of State  
July 17, 2008  
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 17, 2008

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
94TH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008**

**Introduced by Reps. Sheltroun, Moolenaar, Lindberg, Casperson, Palsrok, Booher, Walker, Elsenheimer, Lahti, Hansen, Moore, Espinoza, Gillard, McDowell, Meekhof, Pavlov, Hammon, Shaffer, Spade, Polidori, Stakoe, Gaffney, Lemmons, Gonzales, Bauer, Brown, Farrah, Cushingberry, Angerer, Ebli, LeBlanc, Hood, Alma Smith, Emmons, Nitz, Huizenga, Pearce, Calley, Ward, Proos, Mayes, Clemente, Ball, Horn and Cheeks**

## **ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 4323**

AN ACT to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled "An act to protect the environment and natural resources of the state; to codify, revise, consolidate, and classify laws relating to the environment and natural resources of the state; to regulate the discharge of certain substances into the environment; to regulate the use of certain lands, waters, and other natural resources of the state; to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state and local agencies and officials; to provide for certain charges, fees, assessments, and donations; to provide certain appropriations; to prescribe penalties and provide remedies; and to repeal acts and parts of acts," by amending sections 81115, 81129, 81131, 81133, and 81147 (MCL 324.81115, 324.81129, 324.81131, 324.81133, and 324.81147), section 81115 as amended by 2003 PA 111, section 81129 as amended by 2008 PA 164, section 81131 as added by 1995 PA 58, section 81133 as amended by 1998 PA 86, and section 81147 as amended by 2004 PA 587.

*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

Sec. 81115. (1) A person shall not operate an ORV under any of the following conditions unless the ORV is licensed with the department or a dealer as provided under this part:

- (a) Except as otherwise provided by law, on or over land, snow, ice, or other natural terrain.
- (b) Except as otherwise provided in this part, on a forest trail or in a designated area.
- (c) Except as otherwise provided in section 81102, on the maintained portion of a road or street.

(2) Licensure is not required for an ORV used exclusively in a safety and training program as required in section 81129.

Sec. 81129. (1) Subject to subsections (2), (3), (17), and (18), a parent or legal guardian of a child less than 16 years of age shall not permit the child to operate an ORV unless the child is under the direct visual supervision of an adult and the child has in his or her immediate possession an ORV safety certificate issued pursuant to this part or a comparable ORV safety certificate issued under the authority of another state or a province of Canada.

(2) Subject to subsection (18), a parent or legal guardian of a child less than 12 years of age shall not permit the child to operate a 4-wheeled ATV, unless the child is not less than 10 years of age and is on private land owned by a parent or legal guardian of the child. This subsection does not apply to the operation of an ATV used in agricultural operations.

(3) A parent or legal guardian of a child less than 16 years of age shall not permit the child to operate a 3-wheeled ATV.

(4) Subject to subsections (5), (6), (17), and (18), the owner or person in charge of an ORV shall not knowingly permit the vehicle to be operated by a child less than 16 years of age unless the child is under the direct visual supervision of

an adult and the child has in his or her immediate possession an ORV safety certificate issued pursuant to this part or a comparable ORV safety certificate issued under the authority of another state or a province of Canada.

(5) Subject to subsection (18), the owner or person in charge of a 4-wheeled ATV shall not knowingly permit the vehicle to be operated by a child less than 12 years of age, unless the child is not less than 10 years of age and is on private land owned by a parent or legal guardian of the child. This subsection does not apply to the operation of an ATV used in agricultural operations.

(6) The owner or person in charge of a 3-wheeled ATV shall not knowingly permit the vehicle to be operated by a child less than 16 years of age.

(7) The owner or person in charge of an ORV shall not knowingly permit the vehicle to be operated by a person who is incompetent to operate the vehicle because of mental or physical disability except as provided in section 81131.

(8) The department shall implement a comprehensive ORV information, safety education, and training program that shall include the training of operators and the preparation and dissemination of information and safety advice to the public. The program shall provide for the training of youthful operators and for the issuance of ORV safety certificates to those who successfully complete the training provided under the program and may include separate instruction for each type of ORV.

(9) In implementing a program under subsection (8), the department shall cooperate with private organizations and associations, private and public corporations, the department of education, the department of state, and local governmental units. The department shall consult with ORV and environmental organizations and associations in regard to the subject matter of a training program and performance testing that leads to certification of ORV operators.

(10) The department may designate a person it considers qualified to provide course instruction and to award ORV safety certificates.

(11) The department may promulgate rules to implement subsections (8) to (10) and (18).

(12) Subject to subsections (13), (14), (17), and (18), a child who is less than 16 years of age shall not operate an ORV unless the child is under the direct visual supervision of an adult and the child has in his or her immediate possession an ORV safety certificate issued pursuant to this section or a comparable ORV safety certificate issued under the authority of another state or a province of Canada.

(13) Subject to subsection (18), a child who is less than 12 years of age shall not operate a 4-wheeled ATV, unless the child is not less than 10 years of age and is on private land owned by a parent or legal guardian of the child. This subsection does not apply to the operation of an ATV used in agricultural operations.

(14) A child who is less than 16 years of age shall not operate a 3-wheeled ATV.

(15) Subject to subsection (18), when operating an ORV, a child who is less than 16 years of age shall present the ORV safety certificate to a peace officer upon demand.

(16) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, an operator who is less than 12 years of age shall not cross a highway or street. An operator who is not less than 12 years of age but less than 16 years of age may cross a highway or street or operate on the right-of-way or shoulder of roads and streets on which ORV use is authorized pursuant to section 81131(2), (3), or (5) if the operator has a valid ORV safety certificate in his or her immediate possession and meets any other requirements under this section for operation of the vehicle.

(17) The requirement of possession or presentation of an ORV safety certificate under this section does not apply until implementation of the program for the vehicle proposed to be operated required by subsection (8).

(18) The requirement that a child possess an ORV safety certificate to operate an ORV, and the requirement that a child who is less than 12 years of age not operate a 4-wheeled ATV unless the child is not less than 10 years of age and is on private land owned by a parent or legal guardian of the child, do not apply if all of the following requirements are met:

(a) The child is participating in an organized ORV riding or racing event held on land not owned by this state.

(b) The child's parent or legal guardian has provided the event organizer with written permission for the child to participate in the event.

(c) The event organizer has not less than \$500,000.00 liability insurance coverage for the event.

(d) A physician or physician's assistant licensed or otherwise authorized under part 170 or 175 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.17001 to 333.17084 and 333.17501 to 333.17556, or a paramedic or emergency medical technician licensed under part 209 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.20901 to 333.20979, is present at the site of the event or available on call.

(e) The event is at all times under the direct visual supervision of adult staff of the event organizer and a staff member serves as a flagger to warn ORV riders if another ORV rider is injured or an ORV is inoperable in the ORV operating area.

(f) Fencing or another means of crowd control is used to keep spectators out of the ORV operating area.

(g) If the event is on a closed course, dust is controlled in the ORV operating area and the riding surface in the ORV operating area is otherwise properly prepared.

(h) Three-wheeled ATVs are not used by participants.

(i) Any ATVs used by participants are equipped with a side step bar or comparable safety equipment and with a tether kill switch, and the tether is used by all participants.

(j) Each participant in the event wears a crash helmet approved by the United States department of transportation, a protective long-sleeved shirt or jacket, long pants, boots, and protective gloves.

(k) Any other applicable requirements of this part or rules promulgated under this part are met.

(19) If a child less than 16 years of age participates and is injured in an organized ORV riding or racing event, the organizer of the event shall, within 30 days after the event, submit to the department a report on a form developed by the department. The report shall include all of the following, as applicable:

(a) Whether any participant less than 16 years of age was killed or suffered an injury resulting in transportation to a hospital as a result of an ORV accident at the event.

(b) The age of the child.

(c) Whether the child had been issued an ORV safety certificate under this part or a comparable ORV safety certificate issued under the authority of another state or a province of Canada.

(d) The type of ORV operated.

(e) A description of the accident and injury.

(20) By December 31 of each year, the department shall submit to the legislature a report that summarizes reports received under subsection (19) during the preceding calendar year. In the report, the department may recommend amendments to this part to improve the safety of children less than 16 years of age participating in organized ORV riding or racing events.

(21) The requirements of this section are in addition to any applicable requirements of section 81131(9).

Sec. 81131. (1) A municipality may pass an ordinance allowing a permanently disabled person to operate an ORV in that municipality.

(2) Subject to subsections (4) and (7), the county board of commissioners of an eligible county may adopt an ordinance authorizing the operation of ORVs on the maintained portion of 1 or more roads located within the county. Not less than 45 days before a public hearing on the ordinance, the county clerk shall send notice of the public hearing, by certified mail, to the county road commission and, if state forestland is located within the county, to the department.

(3) Subject to subsections (4) and (7), beginning 1 year after the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subsection, the township board of a township located in an eligible county may adopt an ordinance authorizing the operation of ORVs on the maintained portion of 1 or more roads located within the township. Not less than 28 days before a public hearing on the ordinance, the township clerk shall send notice of the public hearing, by certified mail, to the county road commission and, if state forestland is located within the township, to the department.

(4) The board of county road commissioners may close a road to the operation of ORVs under subsection (2) or (3) to protect the environment or if the operation of ORVs under subsection (2) or (3) poses a particular and demonstrable threat to public safety. A county road commission shall not under this subsection close more than 30% of the linear miles of roads located within the county to the operation of ORVs under subsection (2) or (3). The township board of a township located in an eligible county may adopt an ordinance to close a road to the operation of ORVs under subsection (2).

(5) Subject to subsection (7), the legislative body of a municipality located in an eligible county may adopt an ordinance authorizing the operation of ORVs on the maintained portion of 1 or more streets within the municipality.

(6) Subject to subsections (4) and (7), if a local unit of government adopts an ordinance pursuant to subsection (2), (3), or (5), a person may operate an ORV with the flow of traffic on the far right of the maintained portion of the road or street covered by the ordinance. A person shall not operate an ORV pursuant to subsection (2), (3), or (5) at a speed greater than 25 miles per hour or a lower posted ORV speed limit or in a manner that interferes with traffic on the road or street. Unless the person possesses a license as defined in section 25 of the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.25, a person shall not operate an ORV pursuant to subsection (2), (3), or (5) if the ORV is registered as a motor vehicle under chapter II of the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.201 to 257.259, and either is more than 60 inches wide or has 3 wheels. ORVs operated pursuant to subsection (2), (3), or (5) shall travel single file, except that an ORV may travel abreast of another ORV when it is overtaking and passing, or being overtaken and passed by, another ORV.

(7) Subsections (2) to (6) and an ordinance adopted under subsection (2), (3), or (5) do not apply beginning 5 years after the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subsection.

(8) In addition to any applicable requirement of section 81133(c), a person shall not operate an ORV pursuant to this section when visibility is substantially reduced due to weather conditions without displaying a lighted headlight and lighted taillight. Beginning January 1, 2010, a person shall not operate an ORV pursuant to this section without displaying a lighted headlight and lighted taillight.

(9) A person under 18 years of age shall not operate an ORV pursuant to this section unless the person is in possession of a valid driver license or under the direct supervision of a parent or guardian and the person has in his or her immediate possession an ORV safety certificate issued pursuant to this part or a comparable ORV safety certificate issued under the authority of another state or a province of Canada. A person under 12 years of age shall not operate an ORV pursuant to this section. The requirements of this subsection are in addition to any applicable requirements of section 81129.

(10) A township that has authorized the operation of ORVs on a road under subsection (3) does not have a duty to maintain the road in a condition reasonably safe and convenient for the operation of ORVs. A board of county road commissioners, a county board of commissioners, or a municipality does not have a duty to maintain a road or street under its jurisdiction in a condition reasonably safe and convenient for the operation of ORVs, except the following ORVs:

- (a) ORVs registered as motor vehicles as provided in the code.
- (b) ORVs permitted by an ordinance as provided in subsection (1).

(11) Beginning October 19, 1993, a board of county road commissioners, a county board of commissioners, and a county are, and, beginning on April 25, 1995, a municipality is, immune from tort liability for injuries or damages sustained by any person arising in any way out of the operation or use of an ORV on maintained or unmaintained roads, streets, shoulders, and rights-of-way over which the board of county road commissioners, the county board of commissioners, or the municipality has jurisdiction. The immunity provided by this subsection does not apply to actions that constitute gross negligence. As used in this subsection, "gross negligence" means conduct so reckless as to demonstrate a substantial lack of concern for whether an injury results.

(12) In a court action in this state, if competent evidence demonstrates that a vehicle that is permitted to operate on a road or street pursuant to the code was in a collision with an ORV required to be operated on the far right of the maintained portion of a road or street pursuant to an ordinance adopted under subsection (2), (3), or (5), the operator of the ORV shall be considered prima facie negligent.

(13) A violation of an ordinance described in this section is a municipal civil infraction. The ordinance may provide for a maximum fine of not more than \$500.00 for a violation of the ordinance. In addition, the court shall order the defendant to pay the cost of repairing any damage to the environment, a road or street, or public property damaged as a result of the violation.

(14) The treasurer of the local unit of government shall deposit fines collected by that local unit of government under section 8379 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.8379, and subsection (13) and damages collected under subsection (13) into a fund to be designated as the "ORV fund". The legislative body of the local unit of government shall appropriate revenue in the ORV fund as follows:

(a) Fifty percent to the county sheriff or police department responsible for law enforcement in the local unit of government for ORV enforcement and training.

(b) Fifty percent to the board of county road commissioners or, in the case of a city or village, to the department responsible for street maintenance in the city or village, for repairing damage to roads or streets and the environment that may have been caused by ORVs and for posting signs indicating ORV speed limits or indicating whether roads or streets are open or closed to the operation of ORVs under this section.

(15) As used in this section:

(a) "Eligible county" means Mason, Lake, Osceola, Clare, Gladwin, Arenac, or Bay county or a county lying north thereof, including all of the counties of the Upper Peninsula.

(b) "Local unit of government" means a county, township, or municipality.

(c) "Municipality" means a city or village.

(d) "Road" means a county primary road or county local road as described in section 5 of 1951 PA 51, MCL 247.655.

(e) "Street" means a city or village major street or city or village local street as described in section 9 of 1951 PA 51, MCL 247.659.

Sec. 81133. A person shall not operate an ORV:

(a) At a rate of speed greater than is reasonable and proper, or in a careless manner having due regard for conditions then existing.

(b) Unless the person and any passenger in or on the vehicle is wearing on his or her head a crash helmet and protective eyewear approved by the United States department of transportation. This subdivision does not apply if the vehicle is equipped with a roof that meets or exceeds standards for a crash helmet and the operator and each passenger is wearing a properly adjusted and fastened safety belt.

(c) During the hours of 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise without displaying a lighted headlight and lighted taillight. The requirements of this subdivision are in addition to any applicable requirements of section 81131(8).

(d) Unless equipped with a braking system that may be operated by hand or foot, capable of producing deceleration at 14 feet per second on level ground at a speed of 20 miles per hour; a brake light, brighter than the taillight, visible when the brake is activated to the rear of the vehicle when the vehicle is operated during the hours of 1/2 hour after

sunset and 1/2 hour before sunrise; and a throttle so designed that when the pressure used to advance the throttle is removed, the engine speed will immediately and automatically return to idle.

(e) In a state game area or state park or recreation area, except on roads, trails, or areas designated for this purpose; on state owned lands under the control of the department other than game areas, state parks, or recreational areas where the operation would be in violation of rules promulgated by the department; in a forest nursery or planting area; on public lands posted or reasonably identifiable as an area of forest reproduction, and when growing stock may be damaged; in a dedicated natural area of the department; or in any area in such a manner as to create an erosive condition, or to injure, damage, or destroy trees or growing crops. However, the department may permit an owner and guests of the owner to use an ORV within the boundaries of a state forest in order to access the owner's property.

(f) On the frozen surface of public waters within 100 feet of a person not in or upon a vehicle, or within 100 feet of a fishing shanty or shelter or an area that is cleared of snow for skating purposes, except at the minimum speed required to maintain controlled forward movement of the vehicle, or as may be authorized by permit in special events.

(g) Unless the vehicle is equipped with a spark arrester type United States forest service approved muffler, in good working order and in constant operation. Exhaust noise emission shall not exceed 86 Db(A) or 82 Db(A) on a vehicle manufactured after January 1, 1986, when the vehicle is under full throttle, traveling in second gear, and measured 50 feet at right angles from the vehicle path with a sound level meter that meets the requirement of ANSI S1.4 1983, using procedure and ancillary equipment therein described; or 99 Db(A) or 94 Db(A) on a vehicle manufactured after January 1, 1986, or that level comparable to the current sound level as provided for by the United States environmental protection agency when tested according to the provisions of the current SAE J1287, June 86 test procedure for exhaust levels of stationary motorcycles, using sound level meters and ancillary equipment therein described. A vehicle subject to this part, manufactured or assembled after December 31, 1972 and used, sold, or offered for sale in this state, shall conform to the noise emission levels established by the United States environmental protection agency under the noise control act of 1972, 42 USC 4901 to 4918.

(h) Within 100 feet of a dwelling at a speed greater than the minimum required to maintain controlled forward movement of the vehicle, except on property owned or under the operator's control or on which the operator is an invited guest, or on a roadway, forest road, or forest trail maintained by or under the jurisdiction of the department, or on a road or street on which ORV use is authorized pursuant to section 81131(2), (3), or (5).

(i) In or upon the lands of another without the written consent of the owner, the owner's agent, or a lessee, when required by part 731. The operator of the vehicle is liable for damage to private property, including, but not limited to, damage to trees, shrubs, or growing crops, injury to other living creatures, or damage caused through vehicle operation in a manner so as to create erosive or other ecological damage. The owner of the private property may recover from the person responsible nominal damages of not less than the amount of damage or injury. Failure to post private property or fence or otherwise enclose in a manner to exclude intruders or of the private property owner or other authorized person to personally communicate against trespass does not imply consent to ORV use.

(j) In an area on which public hunting is permitted during the regular November firearm deer season from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., except during an emergency or for law enforcement purposes, to go to and from a permanent residence or a hunting camp otherwise inaccessible by a conventional wheeled vehicle, to remove from public land a deer, elk, or bear that has been taken under a valid license; except for the conduct of necessary work functions involving land and timber survey, communication and transmission line patrol, and timber harvest operations; or except on property owned or under control of the operator or on which the operator is an invited guest. A hunter removing game pursuant to this subdivision may leave the designated trail or forest road only to retrieve the game and shall not exceed 5 miles per hour. A vehicle registered under the code is exempt from this subdivision while operating on a public highway or public or private road capable of sustaining automobile traffic. A person holding a valid permit to hunt from a standing vehicle issued pursuant to part 401, or a person with disabilities using an ORV to access public lands for purposes of hunting or fishing through use of a designated trail or forest road, is exempt from this subdivision.

(k) While transporting on the vehicle a bow unless unstrung or encased, or a firearm unless unloaded and securely encased, or equipped with and made inoperative by a manufactured keylocked trigger housing mechanism.

(l) On or across a cemetery or burial ground, or land used as an airport.

(m) Within 100 feet of a slide, ski, or skating area, unless the vehicle is being used for the purpose of servicing the area or is being operated pursuant to section 81131(2), (3), or (5).

(n) On an operating or nonabandoned railroad or railroad right-of-way, or public utility right-of-way, other than for the purpose of crossing at a clearly established site intended for vehicular traffic, except railroad, public utility, or law enforcement personnel while in performance of their duties, and except if the right-of-way is designated as provided for in section 81127.

(o) In or upon the waters of any stream, river, bog, wetland, swamp, marsh, or quagmire except over a bridge, culvert, or similar structure.

(p) To hunt, pursue, worry, kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, worry, or kill an animal, whether wild or domesticated.

(q) In a manner so as to leave behind litter or other debris.

(r) In a manner contrary to operating regulations on public lands.

(s) While transporting or possessing, in or on the vehicle, alcoholic liquor in a container that is open or uncapped or upon which the seal is broken, except under either of the following circumstances:

(i) The container is in a trunk or compartment separate from the passenger compartment of the vehicle.

(ii) If the vehicle does not have a trunk or compartment separate from the passenger compartment, the container is encased or enclosed.

(t) While transporting any passenger in or upon an ORV unless the manufacturing standards for the vehicle make provisions for transporting passengers.

(u) On adjacent private land, in an area zoned residential, within 300 feet of a dwelling at a speed greater than the minimum required to maintain controlled forward movement of the vehicle except on a roadway, forest road, or forest trail maintained by or under the jurisdiction of the department, or on a road or street on which ORV use is authorized pursuant to section 81131(2), (3), or (5).

Sec. 81147. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this part, a person who violates this part is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days or a fine of not less than \$50.00 or more than \$1,000.00, or both, for each violation.

(2) A person who violates section 81133(e) by operating an ORV in such a manner as to create an erosive condition or who violates section 81133(i) or (o) is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days or a fine of not less than \$250.00 or more than \$1,000.00, or both, for each violation.

(3) A person who violates section 81105, 81107, 81115, 81116, 81121, 81130, or 81133(b), (c), (d), (f), (g), (h), (j), (l), or (m) is responsible for a state civil infraction and may be ordered to pay a civil fine of not more than \$500.00.

(4) A person shall not remove, deface, or destroy a sign or marker placed by the department indicating the boundaries of an ORV trail or area or that marks a route.

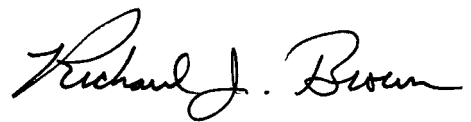
(5) In addition to the penalties otherwise provided under this part, a court of competent jurisdiction may order a person to restore, as nearly as possible, any land, water, stream bank, streambed, or other natural or geographic formation damaged by the violation of this part to the condition it was in before the violation occurred.

(6) The department or any other peace officer may impound the ORV of a person who commits a violation of this part that is punishable as a misdemeanor or who causes damage to the particular area in which the ORV was used in the commission of the violation.

(7) Upon conviction of a person for violation described in subsection (5), a court of competent jurisdiction may order the ORV and any personal property on the ORV seized as a result of the violation returned to the owner or, upon recommendation of the local prosecuting attorney, turned over to the department. An ORV or any other property turned over to the department under this subsection shall be disposed of in the manner provided for condemnation of property in part 16. The proceeds realized by the department under this subsection shall first be used to restore areas damaged by ORV use, with the balance to be deposited in the off-road vehicle account.

Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect unless House Bill No. 5559 of the 94th Legislature is enacted into law.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



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Clerk of the House of Representatives



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Secretary of the Senate

Approved .....

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Governor