



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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**RELAX ORV RESTRICTIONS FOR DISABLED**

House Bill 4616 as introduced  
First Analysis (5-18-87)

Sponsor: Rep. Lad S. Stacey  
Committee: Tourism & Recreation

05 1987

***THE APPARENT PROBLEM:***

The Off-Road Vehicle Act currently provides that a person cannot operate an off-road vehicle (ORV) in an area on which public hunting is permitted during deer hunting season. However, the Game Law specifically allows a verified disabled person to obtain a special permit from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) which would authorize the person to hunt game from a standing vehicle. Thus, disabled persons who want to go hunting and purchase the special hunting permit from the DNR are still subject to potential problems resulting from the discrepancy in the law.

***THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:***

The would bring the ORV act into compliance with the Game Law by exempting any person holding a valid special hunting permit from the ORV restrictions.

MCL 257.1620

***FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:***

Fiscal information is not available.

***ARGUMENTS:***

***For:***

A disabled person has a right to go hunting, just as any other person does. However, even with the purchase of the proper hunting permits, the disabled may still be subject to tickets and other problems because of the discrepancy between the ORV act and the Game Law. The bill would remove the discrepancy and allow disabled persons who had purchased the proper permits to enjoy the same hunting opportunities as everyone else.

***Against:***

While disabled persons should be able to enjoy the same hunting privileges as everyone else, the bill would make it easier for someone who was temporarily disabled to get a special permit and abuse the special hunting privileges. For instance, someone whose legs were broken or severely sprained might be able to get the special hunting permit and hunt from a vehicle even if their disability was gone by the time hunting season opened.

***Response:*** The Game Law requires the DNR to perform an investigation to verify that the disabled person applying for the special permit is a paraplegic, an amputee or a permanently disabled person who would be otherwise unable to walk. Therefore, only permanently disabled persons would be eligible for this special permit. If enforced correctly, the bill would eliminate the potential for abuse.

***POSITIONS:***

The Vietnam Veterans of America Association supports the bill. (5-14-87)

The Michigan Injured Workers Association supports the bill. (5-14-87)

The Monroe County Rod and Gun Club supports the bill. (5-14-87)

The Michigan Citizens Against Incompetent Medicine support the bill. (5-14-87)

The Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America Association supports the bill. (5-14-87)

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