

# HOUSE BILL No. 4997

September 20, 2017, Introduced by Reps. Noble, Johnson, Reilly, Glenn and LaFave and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled "Natural resources and environmental protection act," by amending section 81133 (MCL 324.81133), as amended by 2016 PA 288.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

- 1           Sec. 81133. (1) An individual shall not operate an ORV:
- 2           (a) At a rate of speed greater than is reasonable and proper,
- 3           or in a careless manner, having due regard for conditions then
- 4           existing.
- 5           (b) During the hours of 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour
- 6           before sunrise without displaying a lighted headlight and lighted
- 7           taillight. The requirements of this subdivision are in addition to
- 8           any applicable requirements of section 81131(12).

1 (c) Unless the vehicle is equipped with a braking system that  
2 may be operated by hand or foot, capable of producing deceleration  
3 at 14 feet per second on level ground at a speed of 20 miles per  
4 hour; a brake light, brighter than the taillight, visible from  
5 behind the vehicle when the brake is activated, if the vehicle is  
6 operated during the hours of 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 hour  
7 before sunrise; and a throttle so designed that when the pressure  
8 used to advance the throttle is removed, the engine speed will  
9 immediately and automatically return to idle.

10 (d) In a state game area or state park or recreation area,  
11 except on roads, trails, or areas designated for this purpose,  
12 notwithstanding section 72118; on other state-owned lands under the  
13 control of the department where the operation would be in violation  
14 of rules promulgated by the department; in a forest nursery or  
15 planting area; on public lands posted or reasonably identifiable as  
16 an area of forest reproduction ~~and~~ when growing stock may be  
17 damaged; in a dedicated natural area of the department; or in any  
18 area in such a manner as to create an erosive condition, or to  
19 injure, damage, or destroy trees or growing crops. However, the  
20 department may permit an owner and guests of the owner to use an  
21 ORV within the boundaries of a state forest in order to access the  
22 owner's property.

23 (e) On the frozen surface of public waters within 100 feet of  
24 an individual not in or upon a vehicle, or within 100 feet of a  
25 fishing shanty or shelter or an area that is cleared of snow for  
26 skating purposes, except at the minimum speed required to maintain  
27 controlled forward movement of the vehicle, or as may be authorized

1 by permit in special events.

2 (f) Unless the vehicle is equipped with a spark arrester type  
3 United States Forest Service approved muffler, in good working  
4 order and in constant operation. Exhaust noise emission shall not  
5 exceed 86 Db(A) or 82 Db(A) on a vehicle manufactured after January  
6 1, 1986, when the vehicle is under full throttle, traveling in  
7 second gear, and measured 50 feet at right angles from the vehicle  
8 path with a sound level meter that meets the requirement of ANSI  
9 S1.4 1983, using procedure and ancillary equipment therein  
10 described; or 99 Db(A) or 94 Db(A) on a vehicle manufactured after  
11 January 1, 1986, or that level comparable to the current sound  
12 level as provided for by the United States Environmental Protection  
13 Agency when tested according to the provisions of the current SAE  
14 J1287, June 86 test procedure for exhaust levels of stationary  
15 motorcycles, using sound level meters and ancillary equipment  
16 therein described. A vehicle subject to this part, manufactured or  
17 assembled after December 31, 1972 and used, sold, or offered for  
18 sale in this state, shall conform to the noise emission levels  
19 established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency  
20 under the noise control act of 1972, 42 USC 4901 to 4918.

21 (g) Within 100 feet of a dwelling at a speed greater than the  
22 minimum required to maintain controlled forward movement of the  
23 vehicle, except under any of the following circumstances:

24 (i) On property owned by or under the operator's control or on  
25 which the operator is an invited guest.

26 (ii) On a forest road or forest trail if the forest road or  
27 forest trail is maintained by or under the jurisdiction of the

1 department.

2 (iii) On a street, county road, or highway on which ORV use is  
3 authorized pursuant to section 81131(2), (3), (5), or (6) **AND (7)**.

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

16 (i) In an area on which public hunting is permitted during the  
17 regular November firearm deer season, from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and  
18 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., except as follows:

19 (i) During an emergency.

20 (ii) For law enforcement purposes.

21 (iii) To go to and from a permanent residence or a hunting  
22 camp otherwise inaccessible by a conventional wheeled vehicle.

23 (iv) To remove legally harvested deer, bear, or elk from  
24 public land. An individual shall operate an ORV under this  
25 subparagraph at a speed not exceeding 5 miles per hour, using the  
26 most direct route that complies with subdivision (n).

27 (v) To conduct necessary work functions involving land and

1 timber survey, communication and transmission line patrol, or  
2 timber harvest operations.

3 (vi) On property owned or under control of the operator or on  
4 which the operator is an invited guest.

5 (vii) While operating a vehicle registered under the code on a  
6 private road capable of sustaining automobile traffic or a street,  
7 county road, or highway.

8 (viii) If the individual holds a valid permit to hunt from a  
9 standing vehicle issued under part 401 or is a person with a  
10 disability using an ORV to access public lands for purposes of  
11 hunting or fishing through use of a designated trail or forest  
12 road. An individual holding a valid permit to hunt from a standing  
13 vehicle issued under part 401, or a person with a disability using  
14 an ORV to access public lands for purposes of hunting or fishing,  
15 may display a flag, the color of which the department shall  
16 determine, to identify himself or herself as a person with a  
17 disability or an individual holding a permit to hunt from a  
18 standing vehicle under part 401.

19 (j) Except as otherwise provided in section 40111, while  
20 transporting on the vehicle a bow unless unstrung or encased, or a  
21 firearm unless unloaded and securely encased, or equipped with and  
22 made inoperative by a manufactured keylocked trigger housing  
23 mechanism.

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

26 (l) Within 100 feet of a slide, ski, or skating area, unless  
27 the vehicle is being used for the purpose of servicing the area or

1 is being operated pursuant to section 81131(2), (3), (5), or (6)  
2 **AND (7)**.

3 (m) On an operating or nonabandoned railroad or railroad  
4 right-of-way, or public utility right-of-way, other than for the  
5 purpose of crossing at a clearly established site intended for  
6 vehicular traffic, except railroad, public utility, or law  
7 enforcement personnel while in performance of their duties, and  
8 except if the right-of-way is designated as provided for in section  
9 81127.

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

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

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

16 (q) On public land, in a manner contrary to operating  
17 regulations.

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

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

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

27 (s) While transporting any passenger in or upon an ORV unless

1 the manufacturing standards for the vehicle make provisions for  
2 transporting passengers.

3 (t) On adjacent private land, in an area zoned residential,  
4 within 300 feet of a dwelling at a speed greater than the minimum  
5 required to maintain controlled forward movement of the vehicle  
6 except under any of the following circumstances:

7 (i) On a forest road or forest trail if the forest road or  
8 forest trail is maintained by or under the jurisdiction of the  
9 department.

10 (ii) On a street, county road, or highway on which ORV use is  
11 authorized under section 81131(2), (3), (5), or (6) **AND (7)**.

12 (u) On a forest trail if the ORV is greater than 50 inches in  
13 width.

14 (2) An individual **LESS THAN 18 YEARS OF AGE** who is operating  
15 or is a passenger on an ORV shall wear a crash helmet and  
16 protective eyewear that are approved by the United States  
17 Department of Transportation. This subsection does not apply to any  
18 of the following:

19 (a) An individual who owns the property on which the ORV is  
20 operating, is a family member of the owner and resides at that  
21 property, or is an invited guest of an individual who owns the  
22 property. An exception under this subdivision does not apply to ~~any~~  
23 ~~of the following:~~

24 ~~—— (i) An individual less than 16 years of age.~~

25 ~~—— (ii) An individual 16 or 17 years of age, unless the~~  
26 ~~individual has consent from his or her parent or guardian to ride~~  
27 ~~without a crash helmet.~~

1 ~~—— (iii) An~~ **AN** individual participating in an organized ORV  
2 riding or racing event if an individual who owns the property  
3 receives consideration for use of the property for operating ORVs.

4 (b) An individual wearing a properly adjusted and fastened  
5 safety belt if the ORV is equipped with a roof that meets or  
6 exceeds United States Department of Transportation standards for a  
7 crash helmet.

8 (c) An ORV operated on a state-licensed game bird hunting  
9 preserve at a speed of not greater than 10 miles per hour.

10 (3) Each person who participates in the sport of ORV riding  
11 accepts the risks associated with that sport insofar as the dangers  
12 are inherent. Those risks include, but are not limited to, injuries  
13 to persons or property that can result from variations in terrain;  
14 defects in traffic lanes; surface or subsurface snow or ice  
15 conditions; bare spots; rocks, trees, and other forms of natural  
16 growth or debris; and collisions with fill material, decks,  
17 bridges, signs, fences, trail maintenance equipment, or other ORVs.  
18 Those risks do not include injuries to persons or property that  
19 result from the use of an ORV by another person in a careless or  
20 negligent manner likely to endanger **A** person or property. When an  
21 ORV is operated in the vicinity of a railroad right-of-way, each  
22 person who participates in the sport of ORV riding additionally  
23 assumes risks including, but not limited to, entanglement with  
24 railroad tracks, switches, and ties and collisions with trains and  
25 train-related equipment and facilities.

26 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days  
27 after the date it is enacted into law.