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Off-Highway Vehicle Legislative Updates (2019-2025)

Introduction

This document provides a summary of key legislative updates impacting the off-highway vehicle (OHV) community between 2019 and 2025. These updates cover a range of topics, including education, equipment requirements, licensing, and violations.

Legislative Updates by Year

2019 Updates

- Arizona Revised Statute 28-1177 Amendment: [Arizona Revised Statute](#)
 - *Non-Resident OHV Decal Requirements*
 - Effective September 1, 2019 Arizona began requiring all non-residents to purchase an OHV Decals for their vehicles before being able to operate within the state.

2022 Updates

- Senate Bill 1596: [Chaptered Version](#),
 - *Establishment of the Arizona Off-Highway-Vehicle Study Committee*
 - [Executive Summary](#)
 - The Arizona off-highway vehicle study committee is established with a diverse membership including legislative members, state department directors, law enforcement, representatives from off-highway vehicle organizations and related industries, and members of the public. Appointed members serve at the pleasure of their appointing authority and are not compensated, though some may be reimbursed for expenses. The committee is tasked with studying off-highway vehicle issues and submitting an annual report with recommendations to the governor, legislative leaders, and the secretary of state.

2024 Updates

- Senate Bill 1567: [Chaptered Version](#)
 - *OHV education and other requirements*
 - [Executive Summary](#)

- Introduced new restrictions and requirements for operating OHVs. This bill mandates driver's licenses for OHV operation on roads maintained by the government, requires safety education courses, and addresses issues like parental liability for minors. Additionally, it includes provisions to prevent damage to natural resources and sensitive areas.

2025 Updates

- **Senate Bill 1517:** [Chaptered Version](#)
 - *Temporary Non-Resident Registration*
 - [Executive Summary](#)
 - Arizona Senate Bill 1517 was passed and signed into law on June 20, 2025. The bill primarily addresses the temporary registration of OHVs for non-residents and clarifies the definition of an OHV. It also extends the Arizona OHV Study Committee's existence by two years.

Key Areas of Impact

This section details the primary areas affected by recent legislative changes.

Safety and Regulations

- **Registration:**
 - Non-residents are now required to purchase a non-resident OHV Decal. Decals are good for one year from the date of purchase.
 - Non-residents are now eligible to obtain a temporary (30-day) registration.
 - Prior to registering to obtain a Resident or Non-Resident OHV Decal the registering individual must complete the designated OHV Education course created by the Arizona Game and Fish Department
- **Operator Requirements:**
 - A valid driver's license is required to operate an OHV on any state or public roadway.
 - Operators under the age of 12 driving an OHV on a state or public highway will have a citation issued to the parent or legal guardian
 - Operators between the age of 12 and 15 driving an OHV without a license on a state or public roadway may have the citation issued to the minor or the parent but not both.
 - Open Container Laws now apply to Off-Highway Vehicles
- **Equipment Standards:**
 - Riders and passengers under the age of 18 are legally required to wear a DOT approved helmet unless they are secured in a child restraint system.

Future Outlook

The legislative landscape for the OHV community is continuously evolving. It is important for riders and organizations to stay informed about ongoing discussions and potential future legislation.

Resources and Contacts

For more detailed information or to get involved, please refer to the following resources:

- **Relevant Government Agencies:**
 - [Arizona State Parks and Trails](#): Providing [OHV Grants](#) and [Riding Resources](#)
 - [Arizona Game and Fish Department](#): Non-Resident Decals sales
 - [Arizona State Land Department](#): Recreation Permits
 - [Arizona Office of Tourism](#): Responsible Riding
 - [Arizona Department of Transportation](#): Resident/Non-Resident OHV Registration and Resident Decal Sales
- **OHV Advocacy Groups:**
 - [Arizona OHV Ambassadors](#): OHV Volunteers
 - [Tread Lightly](#): Responsible Riding

- **Annual Legislative Report:**

[Arizona State Parks and Trails](#): Due to the Arizona Legislature, information is updated yearly by September 1st and uploaded to the agency's main OHV page.