

ATV Bill Passes!

S189, which for the first time introduces safety regulations for the operation of all-terrain vehicles in North Carolina, has been signed into law by Governor Easley. The law takes effect on December 1, 2005, and includes an array of safety provisions, including:



No child less than age 8 may operate an ATV.



Children ages 8-11 may operate only ATVs with an engine displacement less than 70 cubic centimeters.



Children ages 12-15 may operate only ATVs with engine displacement of 90 cubic centimeters or less.



Children ages 8-15 may operate an ATV only under the continuous visual supervision of a person 18 years of age or older.

(A child who is age 8 on or before August 15, 2005 may operate larger machines than those prescribed above, as long as there is evidence that the machine was purchased by a parent or guardian prior to August 15, 2005.)



No operator may carry a passenger, except on machines specifically designed to do so.



Operators must wear helmets and face protection.



ATVs may not be operated on public streets, roads or highways, except for purposes of crossing.



Effective October 1, 2006, every all-terrain operator born on or after January 1, 1990 must possess a safety certificate indicating successful completion of an ATV safety course sponsored or approved by the All-Terrain Safety Institute.



Any violation of the provisions of the law is an infraction subject to a fine of not more than \$200.

The law does not apply to the operation of ATVs when used for farm purposes, or for hunting or trapping.