Subdivision 1. Operation on streets and highways. (a) No person shall operate a snowmobile upon the roadway, shoulder, or inside bank or slope of any trunk, county state-aid, or county highway in this state and, in the case of a divided trunk or county highway, on the right-of-way between the opposing lanes of traffic, except as provided in sections 84.81 to 84.90. No person shall operate a snowmobile within the right-of-way of any trunk, county state-aid, or county highway between the hours of one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise, except on the right-hand side of such right-of-way and in the same direction as the highway traffic on the nearest lane of the roadway adjacent thereto. No snowmobile shall be operated at any time within the right-of-way of any interstate highway or freeway within this state.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of paragraph (a) to the contrary:

(1) under conditions prescribed by the commissioner of transportation, the commissioner of transportation may allow two-way operation of snowmobiles on either side of the trunk highway right-of-way where the commissioner of transportation determines that two-way operation will not endanger users of the trunk highway or riders of the snowmobiles using the trail;

(2) under conditions prescribed by a local road authority as defined in section 160.02, subdivision 25, the road authority may allow two-way operation of snowmobiles on either side of the right-of-way of a street or highway under the road authority's jurisdiction, where the road authority determines that two-way operation will not endanger users of the street or highway or riders of the snowmobiles using the trail;

(3) the commissioner of transportation under clause (1) and the local road authority under clause (2) shall notify the commissioner of natural resources and the local law enforcement agencies responsible for the streets or highways of the locations of two-way snowmobile trails authorized under this paragraph; and

(4) two-way snowmobile trails authorized under this paragraph shall be posted for two-way operation at the authorized locations.

c) A snowmobile may make a direct crossing of a street or highway at any hour of the day provided:

(1) the crossing is made at an angle of approximately 90 degrees to the direction of the highway and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing; and

(2) the snowmobile is brought to a complete stop before crossing the shoulder or main traveled way of the highway; and

(3) the driver yields the right-of-way to all oncoming traffic which constitutes an immediate hazard; and

(4) in crossing a divided highway, the crossing is made only at an intersection of such highway with another public street or highway; and

(5) if the crossing is made between the hours of one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise or in conditions of reduced visibility, only if both front and rear lights are on; and
(6) A snowmobile may be operated upon a bridge, other than a bridge that is part of the main traveled lanes of an interstate highway, when required for the purpose of avoiding obstructions to travel when no other method of avoidance is possible; provided the snowmobile is operated in the extreme right-hand lane, the entrance to the roadway is made within 100 feet of the bridge and the crossing is made without undue delay.

(d) No snowmobile shall be operated upon a public street or highway unless it is equipped with at least one headlamp, one tail lamp, each of minimum candlepower as prescribed by rules of the commissioner, reflector material of a minimum area of 16 square inches mounted on each side forward of the handle bars, and with brakes each of which shall conform to standards prescribed by rule of the commissioner pursuant to the authority vested in the commissioner by section 84.86, and each of which shall be subject to approval of the commissioner of public safety.

(e) A snowmobile may be operated upon a public street or highway other than as provided by paragraph (c) in an emergency during the period of time when and at locations where snow upon the roadway renders travel by automobile impractical.

(f) All provisions of chapters 169 and 169A shall apply to the operation of snowmobiles upon streets and highways, except for those relating to required equipment, and except those which by their nature have no application. Section 169.09 applies to the operation of snowmobiles anywhere in the state or on the ice of any boundary water of the state.

(g) Any sled, trailer, or other device being towed by a snowmobile must be equipped with reflective materials as required by rule of the commissioner.

Subd. 1a. Organized contests, use of highways, etc. Nothing in this section or chapter 169 shall prohibit the use of snowmobiles within the right-of-way of any state trunk or county state-aid highway or upon public lands or waters under the jurisdiction of the commissioner of natural resources, in any organized contest, subject to the consent of the official or board having jurisdiction over the highway or public lands or waters.

In permitting such contest, the official or board having jurisdiction may prescribe such restrictions or conditions as they may deem advisable.

Subd. 2. Operation generally. It shall be unlawful for any person to drive or operate any snowmobile in the following unsafe or harassing ways:

(1) at a rate of speed greater than reasonable or proper under all the surrounding circumstances;

(2) in a careless, reckless or negligent manner so as to endanger the person or property of another or to cause injury or damage thereto;

(3) without a lighted head and taillight when required for safety; or

(4) in any tree nursery or planting in a manner which damages or destroys growing stock.

Subd. 2a. Operation prohibited on airports. It is unlawful for any person to drive or operate any snowmobile on an airport defined in section 360.013, subdivision 39, or other applicable law.


Subd. 2c. Application of speed limits to testing activities. (a) A speed limit established by the commissioner in rules adopted under section 84.86 does not apply to a snowmobile that is being operated
as part of a testing program established by a snowmobile manufacturer if:

(1) the snowmobile is operated for testing purposes by a driver employed by the snowmobile manufacturer;

(2) the snowmobile is clearly marked as a test machine; and

(3) the snowmobile is operated in compliance with all other applicable laws and rules.

(b) A card containing a photograph of the driver and identifying the driver as a test driver for the manufacturer must be in the driver's possession at all times when the snowmobile is being operated at a speed in excess of the limit established by the commissioner under section 84.86.

Subd. 3. Regulations by political subdivisions. Notwithstanding anything in this section to the contrary, a county board may by resolution permit the operation of snowmobiles upon the roadway, shoulder, or inside bank or slope of any county highway or county state aid highway if safe operation in the ditch or outside bank or slope thereof is impossible, in which case the county board shall cause appropriate notice thereof to be given.

Any county, city, or any town acting by its town board, may regulate the operation of snowmobiles on public lands, waters, and property under their jurisdiction and on streets and highways within their boundaries by resolution or ordinance of the governing body and by giving appropriate notice, provided such regulations are not inconsistent with the provisions of sections 84.81 to 84.88 inclusive and rules promulgated thereunder. However, no such governmental unit may adopt an ordinance which (1) imposes a fee for the use of public land or water under the jurisdiction of either the commissioner of natural resources or any other agency of the state, or for the use of any access thereto owned by the state, or a county or city; or (2) require a snowmobile operator to possess a motor vehicle driver's license while operating a snowmobile.

Subd. 4. Snowmobile speed limit; lakes greater than 10,000 acres. Notwithstanding any law or rule to the contrary, a county may enact an ordinance to raise the speed limit up to 65 miles per hour for snowmobiles traveling on marked trails during daylight hours on lakes greater than 10,000 acres, subject to the approval of the commissioner of natural resources. Within any posted speed limit, it remains unlawful for any person to drive or operate any snowmobile at a rate of speed greater than is reasonable or proper under all of the surrounding conditions or circumstances.

Minnesota Statutes Annotated Currentness
Natural Resources (Ch. 83A-84)
馫 Chapter 84. Department of Natural Resources
馫 Snowmobiles
馫 84.88. Penalties

Subdivision 1. Penalty. Any person who shall violate any provision of sections 84.81 to 84.89 or any rule of the commissioner of natural resources or of the commissioner of public safety promulgated pursuant to law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Subd. 2. Owner's penalty. A person registered as owner of a snowmobile may be fined not to exceed $300 if a snowmobile bearing the person's registration number is operated contrary to the provisions of sections 84.81 to 84.88, or 97B.091. The registered owner may not be so fined if (a) the snowmobile was reported as stolen to the commissioner or a law enforcement agency at the time of the alleged unlawful act, or if (b) the registered owner demonstrates that the snowmobile either was stolen or was not in use at the time of the alleged unlawful act, or if (c) the registered owner furnishes to law enforcement officers upon request the identity of the person in actual physical control of the snowmobile at the time of such violation. The provisions of this subdivision do not apply to any person who rents or leases a snowmobile if such person
keeps a record of the name and address of the person or persons renting or leasing such snowmobile, the
registration number thereof, the departure date and time, and expected time of return thereof. Such record
shall be preserved for at least six months and shall be prima facie evidence that the person named therein
was the operator thereof at the time it was operated contrary to sections 84.81 to 84.88, or 97B.091. The
provisions of this subdivision do not prohibit or limit the prosecution of a snowmobile operator for
violating any of the sections referred to in this subdivision.

Minnesota Statutes Annotated Currentness
Natural Resources (Ch. 83A-84)

 Gdańsk Chapter 84. Department of Natural Resources
 Gdańsk Snowmobiles
 Gdańsk 84.8712. Metal traction devices; prohibition on paved trails

Subdivision 1. Prohibition. A person may not use a snowmobile with metal traction devices on a paved
public trail, except as otherwise provided by a local government with jurisdiction over a trail or any portion
of a paved state trail designated by the commissioner.

Subd. 2. Civil citation; authority to issue. Conservation officers and other licensed peace officers may
issue civil citations to a person who operates a snowmobile in violation of this section. The citation must
impose a penalty of $50 for the first offense, $200 for the second offense, and $500 for third and
subsequent offenses.

Subd. 3. Appeals. Civil citations for offenses under this section may be appealed under the procedures in
section 116.072, subdivision 6, if the recipient of the citation requests a hearing by notifying the
commissioner in writing within 15 days after receipt of the citation. For the purposes of the enforcement of
this section, the terms “commissioner” and “agency” as used in section 116.072 mean the commissioner of
natural resources. If a hearing is not requested within the 15-day period, the citation becomes a final order
not subject to further review.

Subd. 4. Enforcement. Civil citations for offenses under this section may be enforced under section
116.072, subdivision 9. If a person fails to pay a penalty owed under this section, the person may not
operate a snowmobile until the penalty is paid. Penalty amounts must be remitted within 30 days of
issuance of the penalty citation.

Subd. 5. Allocation of penalty amounts. Penalty amounts collected from civil citations issued under this
section are deposited to the unit of government employing the officer that issues the civil citation. The
commissioner must deposit penalty amounts received by the state in the snowmobile trails and enforcement
account established by section 84.83, subdivision 1. The penalty amounts in the account must be dedicated
for the repair of paved public trails.

Subd. 6. Selection of remedy. A person operating a snowmobile in violation of this section is guilty of a
petty misdemeanor punishable by a fine of no more than $50 for the first offense, no more than $300 for the
second offense, and no more than $600 for the third and subsequent offenses. A peace officer may not seek
both civil and petty misdemeanor penalties for a violation of this section.

Natural Resources (Ch. 83A-84)

 Gdańsk Chapter 84. Department of Natural Resources
 Gdańsk Snowmobiles
 Gdańsk 84.872. Youthful snowmobile operators; prohibitions

Subdivision 1. Restrictions on operation. (a) Notwithstanding anything in section 84.87 to the contrary,
no person under 14 years of age shall make a direct crossing of a trunk, county state-aid, or county highway
as the operator of a snowmobile, or operate a snowmobile upon a street or highway within a municipality.
A person 14 years of age or older, but less than 18 years of age, may make a direct crossing of a trunk, county state-aid, or county highway only if the person has in immediate possession:

(1) a valid snowmobile safety certificate issued by the commissioner;

(2) a driver's license that has a valid snowmobile qualification indicator issued under section 171.07, subdivision 12; or

(3) an identification card that has a valid snowmobile qualification indicator issued under section 171.07, subdivision 12.

(b) Notwithstanding section 84.862, no person under the age of 14 years shall operate a snowmobile unless supervised by or accompanied by one of the following listed persons on the same or an accompanying snowmobile, or on a device towed by the same or an accompanying snowmobile: the person's parent, legal guardian, or other person 18 years of age or older designated by the parent or guardian. However, a person 12 years of age or older but under the age of 14 years may operate a snowmobile if the person has in immediate possession a valid snowmobile safety certificate issued by the commissioner or an identification card with a valid snowmobile qualification indicator issued under section 171.07, subdivision 12.

(c) The snowmobile safety certificate exceptions under paragraph (b) do not allow a person under the age of 14 years to make a direct crossing of a highway as the operator of a snowmobile or to operate a snowmobile upon a street or highway, as prohibited under paragraph (a).

**Subd. 1a. Helmet required.** (a) No person under the age of 18 shall operate or ride a snowmobile in this state without wearing protective headgear that complies with standards established by the commissioner of public safety.

(b) The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to persons during their participation in a parade that has been granted a permit or other official authorization by a local unit of government or to a person operating a snowmobile on land that is owned by the person or the person's parents, grandparents, siblings, uncles, or aunts.

**Subd. 2. Owner's duties.** It is unlawful for any person who is the owner or in lawful control of a snowmobile to permit the snowmobile to be operated contrary to the provisions of this section.

**Subd. 3. Reporting convictions; suspensions.** When the judge of a juvenile court, or any of its duly authorized agents, shall determine that any person, while less than 18 years of age, has violated the provisions of sections 84.81 to 84.88, or any other state or local law or ordinance regulating the operation of snowmobiles, the judge, or duly authorized agent, shall immediately report this determination to the commissioner and may recommend the suspension of the person's snowmobile safety certificate. The commissioner is hereby authorized to suspend the certificate, without a hearing.

Current with laws of the 2010 Regular and First Special Sessions effective through July 31, 2010.