

Talking Points for the ATV Age Increase Bill

A6087¹ Assembly Member Paulin and S5035² Senator Harekham

- The critical need for this legislation is highlighted by fatalities and accidents involving children driving ATVs.
 - One-third of ATV related deaths have been children younger than 18 years of age.³
 - Since 2000 the American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended that ATV use be restricted to those aged 16 and older.⁴
 - Consumer Product Safety Commission reports show that there are about 30,000 children each year under the age of 16 taken to emergency rooms because of ATV related injuries.⁵
- Currently, if children as young as 10 years of age have received a New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) approved safety certificate, they are permitted to drive ATVs “on any lands where ATV use is permitted, without adult supervision.”⁶
 - With many legal riding areas now connected by long stretches of local roads opened to ATVs, this means that 10 year-olds are likely to end up on roadways where the speed limit could be 55 mph.
- This bill will change this unacceptable situation by only permitting those 14 and older to obtain an ATV safety certificate upon completion of a DMV approved safety course. The certificate will permit the 14 year-old rider to ride “on any lands where ATV use is permitted, without adult supervision.”⁷
 - If children between the ages of 14 and 16 ride ATVs without a safety certificate they must be supervised by an adult 18 years or older.
- Under this legislation, children between the ages of 13 and 10⁸ can only ride ATVs on the lands of their parents or guardians and must be supervised by an adult, aged 18 years or older.
- This legislation is a step in the right direction in fixing issues with ATVs, especially those that put young children at risk.
 - Ideally, the age would be increased to 16, but 14 is a good start, and much better than 10 years of age.

¹ <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2019/a6087>

² <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2019/s5035>

³ <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/134/6/1094.full.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-children-atv-injuries/kids-still-getting-hurt-riding-atvs-despite-safety-warnings-idUSKBN1A422F>

⁵ <http://www.ncsl.org/research/transportation/all-terrain-vehicle-safety-resources.aspx>

<https://www.cpsc.gov/content/2017-annual-report-of-atv-related-deaths-and-injuries>

⁶ <https://dmv.ny.gov/brochure/atvs-information-owners-and-operators>

⁷ <https://dmv.ny.gov/brochure/atvs-information-owners-and-operators>

⁸ 14 and 15 would fall under this category if they do not have a safety certificate