

Oversized All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

New law effective October 18, 2021



New Law: ATV Size Restriction

Oversized ATV: is a new category of an ATV that is wider than 65 inches or that weighs more than 2,000 pounds according to the original manufacturer's specifications and cannot be registered with the State of Maine (except in certain situations described below).

- Exception: Registration of an oversized ATV is allowed for Maine residents only who previously registered that oversized ATV before January 1, 2022. An oversized ATV that is allowed under this law to be registered by its current Maine-resident owner may be transferred to a new (Maine resident) owner who may also register that ATV.

Where Registered Oversized ATVs May Operate: A legally registered oversized ATV may operate on land where they have permission from the landowner or lessee, on frozen waters of the state, and portions of state approved ATV trails which do not limit the use of oversized ATVs. Additionally, written permission of the landowner or lessee is required for use of an ATV on cropland or pastureland or in an orchard.

Where Unregistered ATVs (Including Oversized ATVs) May Operate: Unregistered ATVs, whether oversized or not, are allowed to be operated only on land the operator owns or leases.

ATV dealers are required to notify purchasers of oversized ATVs (new and used) of this law. ATV registration agents are required to notify ATV owners and provide education on oversized ATVs at the time of registration.

About the ATV Task Force

ATV riders in Maine rely on public access to the private land on which 80 percent of the state-supported ATV trail system resides. Over the years ATV riding has grown in popularity and ATV design has evolved to include several different sizes, widths, weights, and horsepower. The potential impact of these larger vehicles on the trails has raised concerns among landowners and ATV riders alike.

In 2019 Governor Janet Mills established an ATV task force to evaluate and recommend policy changes that would protect private lands and landowners, while also helping to preserve outdoor recreational opportunities including responsible ATV use. The oversized ATV law was initiated by the task force.

Learn more about the ATV task force at mefishwildlife.com/atvtaskforce

View all of Maine's ATV laws at mefishwildlife.com/laws

Do your part to keep Maine's ATV trails open for generations to come:

- ✓ Stay on marked ATV trails.
- ✓ Respect closed trail signs.
- ✓ Never drink and ride.
- ✓ Drive to the right and at an appropriate speed.
- ✓ Tread lightly – Don't tear up the trail!
- ✓ Remember that modified exhausts are illegal.
- ✓ Be respectful on ATV access routes – Yield to all traffic and never pass a vehicle.
- ✓ Register your ATV. It is required and helps pay for trail maintenance and support.
- ✓ Support a local ATV club! Donate your time and/or money.