

SENATE BILL 812

By Yager

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55,
relative to operation of off-highway vehicles.

WHEREAS, in recent years, Scott County has been the venue for large off-highway vehicle events, which attract thousands of persons to the county; and

WHEREAS, these events, as well as increased off-highway recreational activity in general, have caused Scott County to be referred to as "The Adventure Tourism Capitol of Tennessee"; and

WHEREAS, the recent proliferation of off-highway recreational activities has placed an increased burden on the county government to provide emergency services, including law enforcement, first aid, and ambulance services, all of which are disproportionate to the ordinary needs of local communities within Scott County; and

WHEREAS, these activities also place an increased burden on the Scott County Road Department for the maintenance and repair of county roads used during off-highway events and throughout the year by off-highway vehicles; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-111(a), is amended by adding the following language as a new subdivision:

(3)

(A) As used in this subdivision (a)(3):

(i) "Large event" means any commercial endeavor involving off-highway vehicles where admission is charged and more than five thousand (5,000) persons are expected to attend within a continuous seven-day period; and

(ii) "Off-highway vehicle" has the same meaning as defined in § 55-8-101.

(B) In addition to the registration fee imposed in subdivision (a)(1), there shall be a temporary permit fee imposed and fixed for each off-highway vehicle operated on any private or public recreational trail or area as part of a large event in the amount of:

(i) Ten dollars (\$10.00) for persons residing outside the county where the trail or area is located; and

(ii) Four dollars (\$4.00) for persons residing inside the county where the trail or area is located.

(C)

(i) Fifty percent (50%) of the proceeds derived from the fee imposed under this subdivision (a)(3) shall be collected by and allocated to the county for emergency services; and

(ii) Fifty percent (50%) of the proceeds derived from the fee imposed under this subdivision (a)(3) shall be collected by and allocated to the county for expenses incurred as a direct result of off-highway vehicle recreational activities.

(D) This subdivision (a)(3) shall only apply in counties having a population of not less than twenty-two thousand two hundred (22,200) nor more than twenty-two thousand two hundred forty-five (22,245) according to the 2010 federal census or any subsequent federal census.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017, the public welfare requiring it.