

By: Ritter, Farabee

H.B. No. 227

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the operation of golf carts and side-by-side utility vehicles on municipal streets or county roads.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 504.510(d), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) This section applies only to:

(1) an owner of a golf cart who resides:

(A) [~~(1)~~] on real property that is owned or under the control of the United States Corps of Engineers and is required by that agency to register the owner's golf cart under this chapter; and

(B) [~~(2)~~] in a county that borders another state and has a population of more than 110,000 but less than 111,000; or

(2) a golf cart to be operated on municipal streets or county roads under Section 551.981.

SECTION 2. Subchapter F, Chapter 504, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 504.511 to read as follows:

Sec. 504.511. SIDE-BY-SIDE UTILITY VEHICLES. (a) The department shall issue specialty license plates for an eligible side-by-side utility vehicle.

(b) The fee for issuance of the license plates is \$10.

(c) This section does not authorize the operation of a side-by-side utility vehicle on a public road where it is otherwise

1 prohibited by law.

2 (d) This section applies only to a side-by-side utility  
3 vehicle to be operated on municipal streets or county roads under  
4 Section 551.981.

5 SECTION 3. Section 551.001, Transportation Code, is amended  
6 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 551.001. PERSONS AFFECTED. Except as provided by  
8 Subchapters [~~Subchapter~~] C and Z, this chapter applies only to a  
9 person operating a bicycle on:

10 (1) a highway; or

11 (2) a path set aside for the exclusive operation of  
12 bicycles.

13 SECTION 4. Chapter 551, Transportation Code, is amended by  
14 adding Subchapter Z to read as follows:

15 SUBCHAPTER Z. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

16 Sec. 551.981. OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS AND SIDE-BY-SIDE  
17 UTILITY VEHICLES. (a) In this section:

18 (1) "Golf cart" has the meaning assigned by Section  
19 502.001.

20 (2) "Side-by-side utility vehicle" means a motor  
21 vehicle that is not a golf cart and is:

22 (A) equipped with side-by-side seating for the  
23 use of the operator and a passenger;

24 (B) designed to propel itself with at least four  
25 tires in contact with the ground;

26 (C) designed by the manufacturer for off-highway  
27 use only; and

1           (D) designed by the manufacturer primarily for  
2 farming, ranching, or utility work.

3           (b) The governing body of a municipality or the  
4 commissioners court of a county, as applicable, may allow the  
5 operation of a golf cart or a side-by-side utility vehicle on  
6 streets in the municipality or on roads in the unincorporated area  
7 of the county.

8           (c) The operator of a golf cart or a side-by-side utility  
9 vehicle may operate the vehicle as provided by Subsection (b) if:

10           (1) a slow-moving vehicle emblem, as defined by  
11 Section 547.001, is attached to the vehicle;

12           (2) the vehicle is equipped with headlights and  
13 taillights which are illuminated;

14           (3) the operator holds a Class A, B, C, or M driver's  
15 license, as defined by Sections 521.081-521.084 or a commercial  
16 driver's license under Chapter 522;

17           (4) the vehicle is registered under Section 504.510 or  
18 504.511;

19           (5) the operator establishes financial responsibility  
20 for the vehicle under Section 601.051; and

21           (6) the vehicle is equipped with a horn that complies  
22 with Section 547.501.

23           SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.