

By: Wilson

H.B. No. 1281

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the operation of certain low-powered vehicles.

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

SECTION 1. Section 551.304(a), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) An operator may operate a neighborhood electric vehicle:

(1) in a master planned community:

(A) that is a residential subdivision as defined by Section 209.002(9), Property Code;

(B) that has in place a uniform set of restrictive covenants; or

(C) and ~~and~~

~~[(B)]~~ for which a county or municipality has approved one or more plats ~~[a plat]~~;

(2) on a public or private beach; or

(3) on a public highway for which the posted speed limit is not more than 35 miles per hour, if the neighborhood electric vehicle is operated:

(A) during the daytime; and

(B) not more than five ~~[two]~~ miles from the location where the neighborhood electric vehicle is usually parked and for transportation to or from a golf course.

SECTION 2. Section 551.403, Transportation Code, is amended

1 to read as follows:

2           Sec. 551.403. OPERATION AUTHORIZED IN CERTAIN AREAS. (a) An  
3 operator may operate a golf cart:

4           (1) in a master planned community:

5                   (A) that is a residential subdivision as defined  
6 by Section 209.002(9), Property Code;

7                   (B) that has in place a uniform set of  
8 restrictive covenants; or

9                   (C) [and

10                   ~~[(B)]~~ for which a county or municipality has  
11 approved one or more plats ~~[a plat]~~;

12           (2) on a public or private beach that is open to  
13 vehicular traffic; or

14           (3) on a highway for which the posted speed limit is  
15 not more than 35 miles per hour, if the golf cart is operated:

16                   (A) during the daytime; and

17                   (B) not more than five ~~[two]~~ miles from the  
18 location where the golf cart is usually parked and for  
19 transportation to or from a golf course.

20           (b) Notwithstanding Section 551.402(b), a person may  
21 operate a golf cart in a master planned community described by  
22 Subsection (a) without a golf cart license plate.

23           SECTION 3. Section 551.4031, Transportation Code, is  
24 amended to read as follows:

25           Sec. 551.4031. PROHIBITION OF OPERATION ON HIGHWAY BY  
26 MUNICIPALITY, COUNTY, OR DEPARTMENT. (a) A county or municipality  
27 may prohibit the operation of a golf cart on a highway under Section

1 551.403 [~~551.404~~] if the governing body of the county or  
2 municipality determines that the prohibition is necessary in the  
3 interest of safety.

4 (b) The Texas Department of Transportation may prohibit the  
5 operation of a golf cart on a highway under Section 551.403  
6 [~~551.404~~] if the department determines that the prohibition is  
7 necessary in the interest of safety.

8 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
9 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
10 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
11 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
12 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.