

By: Wilson

H.B. No. 1281

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the operation of certain low-powered vehicles.

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

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

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

8 (1) in a master planned community:

9 (A) that is a residential subdivision as defined  
10 by Section 209.002(9), Property Code, or has in place a uniform set  
11 of restrictive covenants; and

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

14 (2) on a public or private beach; or

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

18 (A) during the daytime; and

19 (B) not more than two miles from the location  
20 where the neighborhood electric vehicle is usually parked and for  
21 transportation to or from a golf course.

22 SECTION 2. Section 551.403, Transportation Code, is amended  
23 to read as follows:

24 Sec. 551.403. OPERATION AUTHORIZED IN CERTAIN AREAS. (a) An

1 operator may operate a golf cart:

2 (1) in a master planned community:

3 (A) that is a residential subdivision as defined  
4 by Section 209.002(9), Property Code, or has in place a uniform set  
5 of restrictive covenants; and

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

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

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

12 (A) during the daytime; and

13 (B) not more than two miles from the location  
14 where the golf cart is usually parked and for transportation to or  
15 from a golf course.

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

19 SECTION 3. Section 551.4031, Transportation Code, is  
20 amended to read as follows:

21 Sec. 551.4031. PROHIBITION OF OPERATION ON HIGHWAY BY  
22 MUNICIPALITY, COUNTY, OR DEPARTMENT. (a) A county or municipality  
23 may prohibit the operation of a golf cart on a highway under Section  
24 551.403 [~~551.404~~] if the governing body of the county or  
25 municipality determines that the prohibition is necessary in the  
26 interest of safety.

27 (b) The Texas Department of Transportation may prohibit the

1 operation of a golf cart on a highway under Section [551.403](#)  
2 [~~551.404~~] if the department determines that the prohibition is  
3 necessary in the interest of safety.

4 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
6 provided by Section [39](#), Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.