

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, or has in place a uniform set of restrictive covenants; 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 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 to read as follows:

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.