

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



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June 19, 2019

RECEIVED
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VIA HAND DELIVERY

House of Representatives
Clerk's Office

as

Honorable Taylor F. Barras
Speaker of the House
Louisiana House of Representatives
Post Office Box 94062
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9062

RE: Veto of House Bill 117 of the 2019 Regular Session

Dear Speaker Barras:

Please be advised that I have vetoed House Bill 117 of the 2019 Regular Session.

I have vetoed this bill, which would have allowed for golf carts to cross state highways in the town limits of Church Point, Louisiana, for several reasons. First, there are significant problems for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), Louisiana State Police (LSP), and local law enforcement with legislation that creates exceptions for traffic use on state highways that vary wildly in different cities and towns across Louisiana. There has been no reason provided why the Town of Church Point should have different regulations for state highway use than other municipalities throughout the state. Secondly, there are significant safety concerns with golf cart use on state highways that are not addressed in this bill. Golf carts are not classified as motor vehicles under federal law and are not regulated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Most do not have seatbelts or many other of the safety features that are expected for vehicles that travel on state highways. Simply put, use of golf carts (or other off-road vehicles) on state highways should be considered after a more thoughtful and careful analysis of the best way to maintain safety on our highways.

I have instructed that the DOTD conduct a study, including best practices from other states, to determine if there should be a statewide structure put in place to allow limited use of golf carts and other vehicles on state highways. This analysis will allow for the DOTD and the legislature to determine if any changes are appropriate for these vehicles to have access to state highways.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Bel Edwards".

John Bel Edwards
Governor

cc: Honorable John Alario
Louisiana Senate President