

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 503

BY REPRESENTATIVE ORGERON

HIGHWAYS: Authorizes utility terrain vehicles to travel on the shoulder of certain roadways in Golden Meadow

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 32:297.1(Section heading), (A)(1), (B), and (C) and to enact R.S.
3 32:297.1(A)(5), relative to the use of utility terrain vehicles on roadways in Golden
4 Meadow; to authorize the use of utility terrain vehicles on the shoulders of public
5 roads and streets of Golden Meadow; to provide for definitions; and to provide for
6 related matters.

7 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published
8 as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of
9 Louisiana.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 32:297.1(Section heading), (A)(1), (B), and (C) are hereby amended
12 and reenacted and R.S. 32:297.1(A)(5) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 §297.1. Alternative pathways for golf carts, utility terrain vehicles, and low-speed
14 vehicles; Golden Meadow

15 A. As used in this Section, the following terms shall have the following
16 meanings:

17 (1) "Golf cart" means ~~an electric~~ a four-wheeled vehicle originally intended
18 for use off-road on golf courses and other green spaces whose maximum speed is
19 twenty-five miles per hour.

20 * * *

1 (5)(a) "Utility terrain vehicle" means any recreational motor vehicle
2 designed for and capable of travel over designated roads, with a minimum width of
3 fifty inches but not exceeding seventy-four inches and a minimum weight of at least
4 seven hundred pounds but not exceeding three thousand five hundred pounds.
5 "Utility terrain vehicle" shall include those vehicles not equipped with a certification
6 label as required by 49 CFR Part 567.4. A "utility terrain vehicle" or "UTV" also
7 means a recreational off-highway vehicle or ROV.

8 (b) "Utility terrain vehicle" does not include golf carts, vehicles specially
9 designed to carry a disabled person, or vehicles otherwise registered under R.S.
10 32:299.

11 B.(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the
12 governing authority of Golden Meadow may, in its discretion, by ordinance
13 authorize the operation of golf carts, utility terrain vehicles, and low-speed vehicles
14 only on the shoulder of a public road and street, except for Louisiana Highway 3235,
15 having a speed limit of thirty miles or less per hour. The authorization shall be
16 contained in an ordinance and recorded in the minutes of the governing authority.
17 The authorization may be accompanied by conditions not inconsistent with this
18 Section and may be revoked, in whole, or in part, by the governing authority at any
19 time.

20 (2) Any person operating a golf cart, utility terrain vehicle, or low-speed
21 vehicle on the shoulder of a public road or street in the town pursuant to this Section
22 shall be properly licensed to operate a vehicle upon any highway within this state and
23 shall have in his possession proof of insurance as required by Part I-A of Chapter 5
24 of this Title.

25 C.(1) Every golf cart, utility terrain vehicle, and low-speed vehicle operated
26 pursuant to this Section shall be required to be registered with the governing
27 authority. The owner of the golf cart, utility terrain vehicle, or low-speed vehicle
28 shall be issued a registration decal by the governing authority that must be displayed
29 as determined by the governing authority. The registration shall remain valid for as

1 long as the registering owner owns the golf cart, utility terrain vehicle, or low-speed
2 vehicle.

3 (2) The governing authority may, by ordinance, establish a registration fee
4 for golf carts, utility terrain vehicles, and low-speed vehicles. The registration fee
5 shall be retained by the municipal clerk and deposited into the municipal general
6 fund.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 503 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Orgeron

Abstract: Adds utility terrain vehicles to the list of vehicles the governing authority may allow to travel on the shoulders of roads and streets in Golden Meadow.

Present law defines "golf cart" as an electric four-wheeled vehicle originally intended for golf courses and other green spaces with a maximum speed of 25 mph.

Proposed law removes the term "electric" from the definition of "golf carts".

Proposed law adds "utility terrain vehicle" to the definitions in present law.

Present law authorizes the governing authority to allow golf carts and low-speed vehicles to operate on the shoulder on roadways with a speed limit of 35 mph or less.

Proposed law specifies that governing authority of Golden Meadow can authorize the use of utility terrain vehicles, in addition to golf carts and low-speed vehicles, on its roads and streets.

(Amends R.S. 32:297.1(Section heading),(A)(1), (B), and (C); Adds R.S. 32:297.1(A)(5))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.