

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 592

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHANCE HENRY

MTR VEHICLE/OFF ROAD: Removes the prohibition against utility terrain vehicles operating on parish roads without a designation by the parish or municipality

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 32:299.3(B) through (E), relative to the operation of utility
3 terrain vehicles; to remove the prohibition against utility terrain vehicles operating
4 on parish roads without a designation by the parish or municipality; to authorize
5 utility terrain vehicles to operate on parish roads as long as the operator complies
6 with age, license requirements, and insurance compliance; to authorize a
7 governmental entity to regulate utility terrain vehicles as long as signage is posted
8 providing notice of the regulations; to provide for restrictions on speed and eligible
9 roadways to be used by utility terrain vehicles; to provide for registration; and to
10 provide for related matters.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. R.S. 32:299.3(B) through (E) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
13 as follows:

14 §299.3. Off-road vehicles; utility terrain vehicles

15 * * *

16 B. Notwithstanding the provisions in R.S. 32:299, the operation of a utility
17 terrain vehicle upon the public roads or streets of this state is prohibited, except as
18 follows:

19 ~~(1) A utility terrain vehicle may be operated only upon a parish road that has~~
20 ~~been designated by a parish or a municipal street that has been designated by a~~

1 ~~municipality for use by a utility terrain vehicle. Upon a designation that a utility~~
2 ~~terrain vehicle may be operated on a designated road or street, the responsible~~
3 ~~governmental entity shall post appropriate signage indicating that the operation is~~
4 ~~authorized. A registered utility terrain vehicle may be operated upon any parish or~~
5 ~~state road or municipal street provided such activity is in compliance with the~~
6 ~~requirements contained in this Section. To protect public safety, a local~~
7 ~~governmental subdivision may regulate or restrict the operation of registered utility~~
8 ~~terrain vehicles on public roadways or municipal streets and may, at its discretion,~~
9 ~~post signage providing notice of such regulation or restriction.~~

10 ~~(2) A utility terrain vehicle may cross any divided highway, highway,~~
11 ~~roadway, or street with a posted speed limit in excess of thirty-five miles per hour~~
12 ~~at an intersection.~~

13 C. A utility terrain vehicle operated on any roadway or street shall be
14 equipped with the minimum motor vehicle equipment appropriate for motor vehicle
15 safety consistent with the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards within 49 CFR
16 Part 571, headlamps, front and rear turn signal lamps, tail lamps, stop lamps, reflex
17 reflectors, including one on each side as far to the rear as practicable and one red
18 reflector on the rear of the vehicle, an exterior mirror mounted on the driver's side
19 of the vehicle and either an exterior mirror mounted on the passenger's side of the
20 vehicle or an interior mirror, a parking brake, an adequate windshield, a windshield
21 wiper, speedometer, odometer, braking for each wheel, a seat belt assembly installed
22 at each designated seating position, and a vehicle identification or serial number.

23 D.(1) Any utility terrain vehicle operated upon a parish road or municipal
24 street shall be registered with the state of Louisiana through the Department of
25 Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, ~~as an off-road vehicle~~ and
26 shall display proper registration ~~a decal~~ issued by the office of motor vehicles.

27 (2) Registration of utility terrain vehicles may include a quick response (QR)
28 code containing encrypted vehicle and registration information accessible to
29 authorized law enforcement personnel. This provision shall take effect when the

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.
2. Remove an authorization for utility terrain vehicles to cross any divided highway, highway, roadway, or street with a posted street limit in excess of thirty-five miles per hour at an intersection.
3. Provide for provisions to apply to registered utility terrain vehicles.
4. Add a provision for minimum motor vehicle equipment standards to align with certain federal standards.
5. Require registration of utility terrain vehicles have a QR code, and specify that this provision will take effect when the department's system is updated to accommodate the registration of utility terrain vehicles and the issuance of QR codes.
6. Remove minimum age requirement for operating a utility terrain vehicle.
7. Remove a requirement that a utility terrain vehicle be registered as an off-road vehicle and that the office of motor vehicles issue a decal.