
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 581 Engrossed

2015 Regular Session

Armes

Abstract: Authorizes the use of "utility terrain vehicles" on certain roads.

Proposed law defines a "utility terrain vehicle" (UTV) as any recreational motor vehicle designed for and capable of travel over designated roads, traveling on four or more tires, a maximum tire width of 27 inches, a maximum wheel cleat of 3/4th inches, a minimum width of 50 inches but not exceeding 74 inches, a minimum weight of at least 700 pounds but not exceeding 2000 pounds, and having a minimum wheelbase of 61 inches but not exceeding 110 inches.

Proposed law adds that UTV does not include golf carts, vehicles specially designed to carry a disabled person, or vehicles otherwise registered under present law. A UTV also means a recreational off-highway vehicle or ROV.

Proposed law prohibits the operation of UTVs on public roads, except as follows: (1) the operation of UTVs on parish and municipal roads if designated by a parish or municipal government and (2) UTVs used to cross public roads where the posted speed exceeds 35 miles per hour.

Proposed law requires certain minimum safety equipment on UTVs operating on the roadways and streets including signal lights, tail lights, break lights, reflectors, exterior mirrors, an adequate windshield, wipers, a speedometer, an odometer, brakes for each wheel, seat belts, and a vehicle identification or serial number.

Proposed law further requires registration of a UTV operated on a parish road or municipal street with the office of motor vehicles (OMV) as an off-road vehicle and requires display of a decal issued by the OMV.

Proposed law restricts operation of a UTV to a person at least 21 years of age who possesses a valid driver's license.

Proposed law requires appropriate liability insurance.

Proposed law prohibits a passenger in the open bed of a UTV while moving upon a parish road or municipal street and limits the number of passengers to the number of available seat belts.

Proposed law specifies that proposed law shall not restrict parish or municipal governments from prohibiting the operation of UTVs on parish roads or municipal streets for safety purposes.

Proposed law requires the promulgation of necessary rules by public safety services. Also, requires the rules and regulations be effective no later than January 15, 2016.

(Adds R.S. 32:299.3)

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. Add a provision that requires a UTV to have a maximum tire width of 27 inches and a maximum wheel cleat of 3/4th inches.
3. Add a provision that specifies that a UTV does not have to be equipped with a federal certification label.
4. Delete a provision that specifies that UTVs may not operate at a speed exceeding 25 miles per hour on a roadway or street where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less.
5. Add provisions that proscribe the operation of a UTV on state roads except under the following circumstances: (1) the operation of UTVs on parish and municipal roads if designated by a parish or municipal government and (2) UTVs used to cross public roads where the posted speed limit exceeds 35 miles per hour.
6. Delete a provision that requires a UTVs windshield to comply with rules of the American National Standard Institute.
7. Add a requirement that a windshield must be adequate.
8. Add a requirement that a UTV includes a vehicle with a serial number.
9. Modify a provision that requires UTVs operating on a public road be registered with the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles by restricting the application to parish and municipal roads.
10. Delete a provision prohibiting a UTV being operated by an unlicensed driver and instead prescribes operation of a UTV by a person at least 21 years of age and possesses a valid driver's license.
11. Delete a provision that grants the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) the authority to prohibit the operation of neighborhood vehicles on public roads if necessary for public safety.

12. Add provisions that prohibit a passenger in the open bed of a UTV while moving upon a parish road or municipal street and limits the number of passengers to the number of available seat belts.
13. Delete a provision that allows the office of motor vehicles to promulgate rules for operation of UTVs on public roads and instead provides such authority to the DOTD, public safety services.
14. Add a provision that requires the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services to promulgate rules for the operation of UTVs on parish roads and municipal streets by Jan. 15, 2016.