

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 122 (HB 581)

2015 Regular Session

Armes

New 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 2,000 pounds, and having a minimum wheelbase of 61 inches but not exceeding 110 inches.

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

New 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 for use by UTVs, and (2) UTVs used to cross public roads where the posted speed exceeds 35 miles per hour.

New 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.

New 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.

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

New law requires appropriate liability insurance.

New 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.

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

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

Effective Aug. 1, 2015.

(Adds R.S. 32:299.3)