

By the Committee on Transportation and Senator Sebesta

306-1919-99

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to motor vehicles; amending s.  
3           316.212, F.S.; prohibiting the use of a golf  
4           cart on public roads by certain minors;  
5           creating s. 316.2122, F.S.; authorizing the use  
6           of low-speed vehicles on certain public roads;  
7           providing restrictions for such operation;  
8           amending s. 316.2126, F.S.; authorizing the use  
9           of golf carts and utility vehicles by  
10          municipalities for municipal purposes and  
11          subject to certain conditions; amending s.  
12          320.01, F.S.; providing a speed restriction for  
13          golf carts; defining the terms "low-speed  
14          vehicle" and "utility vehicle"; amending s.  
15          320.08001, F.S.; prescribing a license tax for  
16          low-speed vehicles; amending s. 320.105, F.S.;  
17          exempting golf carts and utility vehicles from  
18          requirements to display license plates;  
19          amending s. 325.203, F.S.; exempting golf carts  
20          and utility vehicles from inspection  
21          requirements; providing an effective date.

22  
23 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

24  
25           Section 1. Subsection (6) is added to section 316.212,  
26 Florida Statutes, to read:

27           316.212 Operation of golf carts on certain  
28 roadways.--The operation of a golf cart upon the public roads  
29 or streets of this state is prohibited except as provided  
30 herein:

31

1           (6) The operation of a golf cart upon the public roads  
2 or streets of this state by any person under the age of 16 is  
3 prohibited.

4           Section 2. Section 316.2122, Florida Statutes, is  
5 created to read:

6           316.2122 Operation of a low-speed vehicle on certain  
7 roadways.--The operation of a low-speed vehicle, as defined in  
8 s. 320.01(42), upon the public roads or streets of this state  
9 is authorized with the following restrictions:

10           (1) A low-speed vehicle may be operated only on  
11 streets where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or  
12 less. This does not prohibit a low-speed vehicle from crossing  
13 a road or street at an intersection where the road or street  
14 has a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour.

15           (2) A low-speed vehicle must be equipped with  
16 headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, taillamps, reflex  
17 reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, windshields,  
18 seat belts, and vehicle identification numbers.

19           (3) A low-speed vehicle must be registered and insured  
20 in accordance with s. 320.02.

21           (4) Any person operating a low-speed vehicle must have  
22 in his or her possession a valid driver's license.

23           (5) A county or municipality may prohibit the  
24 operation of low-speed vehicles on any street or highway under  
25 its jurisdiction if the governing body of the county or  
26 municipality determines that such prohibition is necessary in  
27 the interest of safety.

28           (6) The Department of Transportation may prohibit the  
29 operation of low-speed vehicles on any street or highway under  
30 its jurisdiction if it determines that such prohibition is  
31 necessary in the interest of safety.

1           Section 3. Section 316.2126, Florida Statutes, is  
2 amended to read:

3           316.2126 Use of golf carts and utility vehicles by  
4 ~~certain~~ municipalities.--In addition to the powers granted by  
5 ss. 316.212 and 316.2125, municipalities may use ~~older than~~  
6 ~~400 years old~~ are hereby authorized to utilize golf carts and  
7 utility vehicles, as defined in s. 320.01, upon any state,  
8 county, or municipal roads located within the corporate limits  
9 of such municipalities, subject to the following conditions:

10           (1) Golf carts and utility vehicles must comply with  
11 the operational and safety requirements ~~operated beyond the~~  
12 ~~authority granted~~ in ss. 316.212 and 316.2125 and shall ~~may~~  
13 ~~only~~ be operated only by municipal employees for municipal  
14 purposes, including, but not limited to, police patrol,  
15 traffic enforcement, and inspection of public facilities.

16           (2) In addition to the safety equipment required in s.  
17 316.212(6), such golf carts and utility vehicles must be  
18 equipped with sufficient lighting and turn signal equipment.

19           (3) ~~Golf~~ The golf carts and utility vehicles may only  
20 be operated on state roads that have a posted speed limit of  
21 30 miles per hour or less.

22           Section 4. Subsection (22) of section 320.01, Florida  
23 Statutes, is amended, and subsections (42) and (43) are added  
24 to that section, to read:

25           320.01 Definitions, general.--As used in the Florida  
26 Statutes, except as otherwise provided, the term:

27           (22) "Golf cart" means a motor vehicle that is  
28 designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for  
29 sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of  
30 exceeding speeds of 20 miles per hour.

31

1           (42) "Utility vehicle" means a motor vehicle designed  
2 and manufactured for general maintenance, security, and  
3 landscaping purposes, but the term does not include any  
4 vehicle designed or used primarily for the transportation of  
5 persons or property on a street or highway, or a golf cart, or  
6 an all-terrain vehicle as defined in s. 316.2074.

7           (43) "Low-speed vehicle" means any four-wheeled  
8 electric vehicle whose top speed is greater than 20 miles per  
9 hour but not greater than 25 miles per hour, including  
10 neighborhood electric vehicles. Low-speed vehicles must comply  
11 with the safety standards in 49 C.F.R. 571.500 and s.  
12 316.2122.

13           Section 5. Section 320.08001, Florida Statutes, is  
14 amended to read:

15           320.08001 Electric vehicles; license tax.--The license  
16 tax for an electric vehicle or low-speed vehicle is the same  
17 as that prescribed in s. 320.087 for a vehicle that is not  
18 electrically powered.

19           Section 6. Section 320.105, Florida Statutes, is  
20 amended to read:

21           320.105 Golf carts and utility vehicles;  
22 exemption.--Golf carts and utility vehicles, as defined in s.  
23 320.01, when operated in accordance with s. 316.212 or s.  
24 316.2126, are exempt from provisions of this chapter which  
25 require the registration of vehicles or the display of license  
26 plates.

27           Section 7. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section  
28 325.203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

29           325.203 Motor vehicles subject to annual inspection;  
30 exemptions.--

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1           (4) The following motor vehicles are not subject to  
2 inspection:

3           (c) Golf carts and utility vehicles, as defined in s.  
4 320.01.

5           Section 8. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
6 law.

7  
8                           STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
9                           COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
10                           SB 988

11 This CS defines a "low speed vehicle" as any four wheeled  
12 electric vehicle whose top speed is more than 20 miles per  
13 hour but less than 25 miles per hour, and authorizes the  
operation of such vehicles on public roads where the posted  
speed limit does not exceed 35 miles per hour.

14 The CS requires low-speed vehicles to be equipped with  
15 headlamps, stop lamps, tail lamps, reflex reflectors, parking  
brakes, rearview mirrors, windshields, seat belts, and vehicle  
16 identification numbers. The CS further requires operators of  
low-speed vehicles to be licensed and insured. The CS limits  
17 the speed at which a golf cart may operate to 20 miles per  
hour and prohibits the operation of a golf cart upon public  
18 roads by any person under the age of 16.