

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to motor vehicles; amending s.  
3           316.003, F.S.; providing official traffic  
4           control devices and traffic control devices are  
5           the same and do not include certain pavement  
6           undulations; amending s. 316.008, F.S.;  
7           authorizing local governments to regulate  
8           certain pavement undulations; amending s.  
9           316.0745, F.S.; providing certain pavement  
10          undulations are exempt from certain  
11          prohibitions concerning uniform traffic control  
12          devices; creating s. 316.2122, F.S.;  
13          authorizing the use of low-speed vehicles on  
14          certain public roads; providing restrictions  
15          for such operation; amending s. 320.01, F.S.;  
16          providing a speed restriction for golf carts;  
17          defining the term "low-speed vehicle"; defining  
18          the term "utility vehicle"; amending s.  
19          320.08001, F.S.; prescribing a license tax for  
20          low-speed vehicles; amending s. 316.2126, F.S.;  
21          authorizing the use of golf carts and utility  
22          vehicles by municipalities for municipal  
23          purposes and subject to certain conditions;  
24          amending s. 320.105, F.S.; exempting golf carts  
25          and utility vehicles from requirements to  
26          display license plates; amending s. 325.203,  
27          F.S.; exempting golf carts and utility vehicles  
28          from inspection requirements; providing an  
29          effective date.  
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31   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

1           Section 1. Subsection (23) of section 316.003, Florida  
2 Statutes, is amended to read:

3           316.003 Definitions.--The following words and phrases,  
4 when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings  
5 respectively ascribed to them in this section, except where  
6 the context otherwise requires:

7           (23) OFFICIAL TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES.--All signs,  
8 signals, markings, and devices, not inconsistent with this  
9 chapter, placed or erected by authority of a public body or  
10 official having jurisdiction for the purpose of regulating,  
11 warning, or guiding traffic. As used in this chapter, official  
12 traffic control devices and traffic control devices shall have  
13 the same meaning and shall not include speed bumps, speed  
14 humps, speed tables or other pavement undulations.

15           Section 2. Paragraph (w) of subsection (1) of section  
16 316.008, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

17           316.008 Powers of local authorities.--

18           (1) The provisions of this chapter shall not be deemed  
19 to prevent local authorities, with respect to streets and  
20 highways under their jurisdiction and within the reasonable  
21 exercise of the police power, from:

22           (w) Regulating, restricting, or monitoring traffic by  
23 security devices or personnel on public streets and highways,  
24 whether by public or private parties and providing for the  
25 construction and maintenance of such streets and highways  
26 which shall include, but not be limited to, the installation  
27 of speed bumps, speed humps, speed tables or other pavement  
28 undulations.

29           Section 3. A new subsection (9) is added to section  
30 316.0745, Florida Statutes, to read:

31           316.0745 Uniform signals and devices.--

1           (9) The prohibitions set out in this section shall not  
2 apply to the installation of speed bumps, speed humps, speed  
3 tables or other pavement undulations.

4           Section 4. 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 5. Subsection (22) of section 320.01, Florida  
2 Statutes, is amended and subsections (42) and (43) are added  
3 to that section to read:

4 320.01 Definitions, general.--As used in the Florida  
5 Statutes, except as otherwise provided, the term:

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

10 (42) "Low-speed vehicle" means any four-wheeled  
11 electric vehicle whose top speed is greater than 20 miles per  
12 hour but not greater than 25 miles per hour, including  
13 neighborhood electric vehicles. Low-speed vehicles must comply  
14 with the safety standards in 49 C.F.R. 571.500 and s.  
15 316.2122.

16 (43) "Utility vehicle" means a motor vehicle designed  
17 and manufactured for general maintenance, security, and  
18 landscaping purposes, but the term does not include any  
19 vehicle designed or used primarily for the transportation of  
20 persons or property on a street or highway, or a golf cart, or  
21 an all-terrain vehicle as defined in s. 316.2074.

22 Section 6. Section 320.08001, Florida Statutes, is  
23 amended to read:

24 320.08001 Electric vehicles; license tax.--The license  
25 tax for an electric vehicle or low-speed vehicle is the same  
26 as that prescribed in s. 320.087for a vehicle that is not  
27 electrically powered.

28 Section 7. Section 316.2126, Florida Statutes, is  
29 amended to read:

30 316.2126 Use of golf carts and utility vehicles by  
31 ~~certain~~ municipalities.--In addition to the powers granted by

1 ss. 316.212 and 316.2125, municipalities ~~older than 400 years~~  
2 ~~old~~ are hereby authorized to utilize golf carts and utility  
3 vehicles, as defined in s. 320.01, upon any state, county, or  
4 municipal roads located within the corporate limits of such  
5 municipalities, subject to the following conditions:

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

12 (2) In addition to the safety equipment required in s.  
13 316.212(6), such golf carts and utility vehicles must be  
14 equipped with sufficient lighting and turn signal equipment.

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

18 Section 8. Section 320.105, Florida Statutes, is  
19 amended to read:

20 320.105 Golf carts and utility vehicles;  
21 exemption.--Golf carts and utility vehicles, as defined in s.  
22 320.01, when operated in accordance with s. 316.212 or s.  
23 316.2126, are exempt from provisions of this chapter which  
24 require the registration of vehicles or the display of license  
25 plates.

26 Section 9. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section  
27 325.203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

28 325.203 Motor vehicles subject to annual inspection;  
29 exemptions.--

30 (4) The following motor vehicles are not subject to  
31 inspection:

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(c) Golf carts and utility vehicles, as defined in s.  
320.01.  
Section 10. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
law.