

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to utility terrain vehicles; creating  
 3           s. 316.21275, F.S.; defining terms; authorizing a  
 4           utility terrain vehicle (UTV) to be operated during  
 5           all hours; authorizing the operation of UTVs on  
 6           certain roadways; authorizing the operation of UTVs on  
 7           certain parts of the State Highway System; authorizing  
 8           the Department of Transportation to prohibit the use  
 9           of UTVs under certain circumstances; authorizing  
 10          persons possessing certain licenses to operate a UTV;  
 11          requiring owners or operators of a UTV to comply with  
 12          certain requirements and regulations; authorizing a  
 13          county or municipality to restrict the operation of  
 14          UTVs under certain circumstances; providing civil  
 15          penalties; amending s. 320.0847, F.S.; requiring the  
 16          Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to  
 17          issue a license plate to the owner or lessee of a  
 18          vehicle registered as a UTV upon payment of certain  
 19          taxes and fees; requiring that license plates for UTVs  
 20          comply with specified provisions; providing an  
 21          effective date.

22  
 23   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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25                   **Section 1.   Section 316.21275, Florida Statutes, is created**

26 **to read:**

27 316.21275 Operation of a UTV on certain roadways.—

28 (1) As used in this section, the term:

29 (a) "Direct supervision" means a person is in the adjacent  
 30 front passenger seat of the UTV being operated.

31 (b) "Utility terrain vehicle" or "UTV" means a vehicle  
 32 less than 70 inches in width which has at least two seats  
 33 allowing passengers to sit in a side-by-side manner, is operated  
 34 by foot controls and a steering wheel, and is equipped with  
 35 headlamps, stop lamps, turn signals, tail lamps, rearview  
 36 mirrors, a windshield, seat belts, and a horn.

37 (2) A UTV may be operated during all hours.

38 (3) A UTV may be operated only upon:

39 (a) A two-lane county road with a posted speed limit of  
 40 less than 55 miles per hour which has been designated for UTV  
 41 use by a county; or

42 (b) A two-lane municipal street with a posted speed limit  
 43 of less than 55 miles per hour which has been designated for UTV  
 44 use by a municipality.

45  
 46 Before making such designation, the responsible county or  
 47 municipality must first determine that a UTV may safely travel  
 48 on or cross the public road or street, considering factors  
 49 including the speed, volume, and character of motor vehicle  
 50 traffic using the road or street.

51 (4) A person may operate a UTV on the State Highway System  
 52 only when necessary to cross the highway at an angle of  
 53 approximately 90 degrees to the direction of the roadway and at  
 54 a place where a quick and safe crossing can be made. The  
 55 Department of Transportation may prohibit the operation of UTVs  
 56 on any road in its jurisdiction if it determines that such  
 57 prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

58 (5) A person may operate a UTV only if he or she possesses  
 59 a driver license pursuant to s. 322.18, or the person possesses  
 60 a learner's driver license pursuant to s. 322.1615 and is under  
 61 the direct supervision of a licensed driver.

62 (6) The owner or operator of a UTV must comply with all of  
 63 the following requirements and regulations:

64 (a) Obey traffic regulations enumerated in this chapter  
 65 and operate his or her UTV with due care.

66 (b) Provide proof of ownership under chapter 317 upon  
 67 request of a law enforcement officer.

68 (c) Fulfil all insurance requirements pursuant to s.  
 69 324.022.

70 (d) Ensure that the UTV has the proper license plate  
 71 pursuant to s. 320.0847.

72 (7) A county or municipality may enact an ordinance  
 73 regarding UTV operation and equipment which is more restrictive  
 74 than those requirements enumerated in this section.

75 (8) A county or municipality may prohibit the operation of

76 | a UTV on any road or street under its jurisdiction if the  
 77 | governing body of such county or municipality determines that  
 78 | such prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

79 | (9) A violation of this section is a noncriminal traffic  
 80 | infraction, punishable as a nonmoving violation, as provided in  
 81 | chapter 318.

82 | **Section 2. Section 320.0847, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
 83 | **to read:**

84 | 320.0847 Mini truck, utility terrain vehicle, and low-  
 85 | speed vehicle license plates.—

86 | (1) The department shall issue a license plate to the  
 87 | owner or lessee of any vehicle registered as a low-speed vehicle  
 88 | as defined in s. 320.01, ~~or~~ a mini truck as defined in s.  
 89 | 320.01, or a utility terrain vehicle as defined in s. 316.21275  
 90 | upon payment of the appropriate license taxes and fees  
 91 | prescribed in s. 320.08.

92 | (2) The license plate for a low-speed vehicle, ~~or~~ mini  
 93 | truck, or utility terrain vehicle must ~~shall~~ comply with ~~the~~  
 94 | ~~provisions of~~ s. 320.06.

95 | **Section 3.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.