

By the Committee on Transportation; and Senator Wright

596-02005-25

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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:

24  
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

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30 front passenger seat of the UTV being operated.

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

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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 and  
65 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) Fulfill all insurance requirements pursuant to s.  
69 324.021(7).

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

72 (e) Maintain the registration certificate or a copy thereof  
73 in the UTV pursuant to s. 320.0605.

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

77 (8) A county or municipality may prohibit the operation of  
78 a UTV on any road or street under its jurisdiction if the  
79 governing body of such county or municipality determines that  
80 such prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

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

84 Section 2. Section 320.0847, Florida Statutes, is amended  
85 to read:

86 320.0847 Mini truck, utility terrain vehicle, and low-speed  
87 vehicle license plates.-

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

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

97 Section 3. This act shall take effect January 1, 2026.