

1 HB203
2 165164-2
3 By Representatives McMillan and Boothe
4 RFD: Public Safety and Homeland Security
5 First Read: 10-MAR-15

1 ENGROSSED

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4 A BILL
5 TO BE ENTITLED
6 AN ACT
7

8 To authorize a municipality to allow limited
9 operation of golf carts on a municipal street or public road;
10 to provide limitations; to require the driver to have a
11 driver's license; to require the operator of a golf cart on a
12 municipal street or public roadway to be covered by liability
13 insurance; and to authorize the municipality to assess a civil
14 penalty for violations.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

16 Section 1. (a) A municipality may designate
17 municipal streets or public roads within the municipality for
18 use by golf carts. Before making that designation, the
19 municipality shall first determine that golf carts may safely
20 travel on or across the street or road. The municipality
21 making the safety determination shall consider factors
22 including, but not limited to, the speed, volume, and
23 character of motor vehicle traffic using the road or street.
24 Upon a determination that golf carts may be safely operated on
25 the designated street or road, the municipality shall post
26 appropriate signs to indicate that the operation of golf carts
27 is authorized.

1 (b) A municipality that authorizes the use of golf
2 carts pursuant to subsection (a) shall inspect any golf cart
3 that an owner wishes to use pursuant to subsection (a) to
4 determine if the safety equipment required by subsection (e)
5 is present on the golf cart and shall verify that the operator
6 of the golf cart on a municipal street or public road is
7 covered by a policy of liability insurance held by the owner
8 of the golf cart. The liability limits for operation of the
9 golf cart shall be the same as for operation of a motor
10 vehicle. If the proper safety equipment is present and the
11 golf cart is covered by liability insurance, the municipality
12 shall issue a permit to the owner upon payment of a permit
13 fee. The municipality may designate the appropriate department
14 of the municipality to inspect and permit golf carts and may
15 adopt rules for permitting golf carts, including providing for
16 a permit fee.

17 (c) A municipality may not allow a golf cart to
18 operate on a municipal street or public road where the posted
19 speed limit exceeds 25 miles per hour.

20 (d) A municipality may limit the operation of a golf
21 cart pursuant to this section to only between the hours of
22 sunrise and sunset.

23 (e) The golf cart shall be equipped with headlights,
24 brake lights, turn signals, and a windshield.

25 (f) No person may operate a golf cart on a public
26 street or road without a driver's license.

1 (g) A municipality may enact an ordinance regarding
2 golf cart operation and equipment that is more restrictive
3 than the restrictions enumerated in this section. Upon
4 enactment, the municipality shall post appropriate signs or
5 otherwise inform residents that the ordinance exists and will
6 be enforced within the jurisdictional limits of the
7 municipality.

8 (h) All golf carts shall be entitled to full use of
9 a lane, and no motor vehicle shall be driven in such a manner
10 as to deprive any golf cart of the full use of a lane.

11 (i) The operator of a golf cart may not overtake and
12 pass in the same lane occupied by the vehicle being overtaken.

13 (j) A golf cart may not be operated between lanes of
14 traffic or between adjacent lines or rows of vehicles.

15 (k) Golf carts may not be operated two or more
16 abreast in a single lane.

17 (l) The unauthorized operation of a golf cart on a
18 municipal street or public road is a violation for which the
19 municipality may collect a civil penalty of up to fifty
20 dollars (\$50).

21 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
22 first day of the third month following its passage and
23 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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House of Representatives

Read for the first time and re-
ferred to the House of Representa-
tives committee on Public Safety
and Homeland Security..... 10-MAR-15

Read for the second time and placed
on the calendar 1 amendment 09-APR-15

Read for the third time and passed
as amended..... 19-MAY-15

Yeas 97, Nays 0, Abstains 4

Jeff Woodard
Clerk