

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
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As Engrossed: H3/12/25 S4/8/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1606

By: Representative Steimel

By: Senator Dees

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF CERTAIN VEHICLES ON PUBLIC ROADWAYS; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF A UTILITY TASK VEHICLE ON A PUBLIC STREET OR HIGHWAY; TO ALLOW A LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO AUTHORIZE THE OPERATION OF A UTILITY TASK VEHICLE ON A DESIGNATED PUBLIC STREET OR HIGHWAY WITHIN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S JURISDICTION; TO ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS FOR A UTILITY TASK VEHICLE OPERATING ON A PUBLIC STREET OR HIGHWAY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ALLOW A LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO AUTHORIZE THE OPERATION OF A UTILITY TASK VEHICLE ON A DESIGNATED PUBLIC STREET OR HIGHWAY WITHIN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S JURISDICTION SUBJECT TO CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 27-21-101 is amended to read as follows:
27-21-101. Purpose.

It is the intent and purpose of this chapter to regulate the use of recreational all-terrain vehicles ~~by restricting their use~~ and utility task vehicles on the public streets and highways of this state. This law seeks to ensure the safety and general welfare of the citizens of Arkansas by limiting



the situations where all-terrain vehicles and utility task vehicles are permitted to be used in a dangerous and unsafe fashion.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 27-21-102(1)(C), concerning the definitions used in the laws relating to all-terrain vehicles, is amended to read as follows:

(C) "All-terrain vehicle" does not include a utility task vehicle, golf cart, riding lawnmower, or lawn or garden tractor;

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 27-21-102(4)(B) and (C), concerning the definitions used in the laws relating to all-terrain vehicles, are amended to read as follows:

(B) "Recreational off-highway vehicle" includes a+
~~(i) Multipurpose~~ multipurpose off-highway utility vehicle; ~~and~~

~~(ii) Utility task vehicle.~~

(C) "Recreational off-highway vehicle" does not include a utility task vehicle, golf cart, riding lawnmower, or lawn or garden tractor.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 27-21-102, concerning definitions used in the laws relating to all-terrain vehicles, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(5)(A) "Utility task vehicle" means a vehicle that:

(i) Is eighty inches (80") or less in width;

(ii) Travels on four (4) or more low-pressure tires;

(iii) Has a steering wheel;

(iv) Has non-straddle seating;

(v) Has a rollover protection system;

(vi) Is designed for or capable of travel over unimproved terrain; and

(B) "Utility task vehicle" does not include an all-terrain vehicle, a golf cart, a riding lawnmower, or a lawn or garden tractor.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code §§ 27-21-103 and 27-21-104 are amended to read as follows:

27-21-103. Construction.

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require an all-terrain vehicle or a utility task vehicle to be registered as a motor vehicle, motorcycle, or motor-driven cycle for operation on the public streets and highways.

27-21-104. Penalty.

~~Any~~ A person violating the provisions of this chapter ~~shall be upon conviction is~~ guilty of a Class C misdemeanor ~~and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) nor more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) or imprisoned not more than thirty (30) days, or shall be both fined and imprisoned.~~

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 27-21-107, concerning the operation of all-terrain vehicles, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(c) An operator of a utility task vehicle that is travelling on a public street or highway as authorized under § 27-21-111(a)(2) shall:

- (1) Have a valid driver's license;
- (2) Be subject to the restrictions stated in § 27-16-804;
- (3) Register the utility task vehicle under § 27-14-701 et seq. and display the registration decal for the utility task vehicle on the driver's side roll bar of the utility task vehicle;
- (4) Maintain insurance that meets the requirements for private passenger motor vehicles under § 23-89-201 et seq.;
- (5) Carry proof of insurance covering the utility task vehicle as required under the Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act, § 27-19-101 et seq. and § 27-22-101 et seq.; and
- (6) Comply with the rules of the road as provided under § 27-51-101 et seq.

SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 27-21-108, concerning the equipment required for all-terrain vehicles, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(c) A utility task vehicle operated on a public street or highway as authorized under § 27-21-111(a)(2) shall have the following functional equipment:

- (1) At least two (2) headlamps;
- (2) Rear-facing turn signals;
- (3) At least one (1) brake light; and
- (4) Seatbelts.

SECTION 8. Arkansas Code Title 27, Chapter 21, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

27-21-111. Operation of utility task vehicle on designated public streets and highways.

(a) A person may operate a utility task vehicle on a public street or highway of this state if:

(1) The utility task vehicle is being operated on the public street or highway under a condition or circumstance listed in § 27-21-106(a);
or

(2) The following requirements are met:

(A) The public street or highway has been designated as being open to the operation of a utility task vehicle under this section; and

(B) The utility task vehicle and the operator of the utility task vehicle meet the requirements of this chapter.

(b)(1)(A) The governing body of the city in which a public street or highway is located may adopt an ordinance designating the public street or highway within the jurisdiction of the city as being open to the operation of a utility task vehicle.

(B) An ordinance adopted under subdivision (b)(1)(A) of this section:

(i) May apply to all public streets and highways within the boundaries of the city; or

(ii)(a) If the ordinance does not apply to all public streets and highways within the boundaries of the city, shall include a map depicting and a list identifying the particular public streets and highways that are designated as being open to the operation of a utility task vehicle.

(b) The map required under subdivision (b)(1)(B)(ii)(a) of this section shall be attached as an exhibit to the ordinance on file with the city clerk.

(2)(A) The county judge of the county in which a public street

or highway is located may issue an executive order designating the public street or highway within the jurisdiction of the county as being open to the operation of a utility task vehicle.

(B) An executive order issued under subdivision (b)(2)(A) of this section:

(i) May apply to all public streets and highways within the boundaries of the county; or

(ii)(a) If the executive order does not apply to all public streets and highways within the boundaries of the county, shall have attached as an exhibit a map depicting and a list identifying the particular public streets and highways that are designated as being open to the operation of a utility task vehicle.

(b) The map required under subdivision (b)(2)(B)(ii)(a) of this section shall be attached as an exhibit to the executive order on file with the county clerk.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, a state highway that is located within an area that has been designated as being open under this subsection is open to the operation of a utility task vehicle.

(c) If a public street or highway is subject to the jurisdiction of both a city and a county, the city ordinance or the executive order of the county judge that is least restrictive to the operation of a utility task vehicle applies.

(d) The governing body of a city or the county judge of a county shall not designate a public street or highway within the jurisdiction of the city or county as being open to the operation of a utility task vehicle under this subsection if the public street or highway:

(A) Has a posted speed limit that exceeds fifty-five miles per hour (55 m.p.h.);

(B) Is a divided four-lane highway; or

(C) Is located in a state park.

/s/Steimel