
DIGEST

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HB 581 Original

2015 Regular Session

Armes

Abstract: Authorizes the use of "utility terrain vehicles" on certain roads.

Proposed law defines a "utility terrain vehicle" as any recreational motor vehicle designed for and capable of travel over designated roads, traveling on four or more tires, a minimum width of 50 inches but not exceeding 74 inches, a minimum weight of at least 700 pounds but not exceeding 2000 pounds, and having a minimum wheelbase of 61 inches but not exceeding 110 inches. Utility type vehicle does not include golf carts, vehicles specially designed to carry a disabled person, or vehicles otherwise registered under present law. A "utility type vehicle" or "UTV" also means a recreational off-highway vehicle or ROV. Authorizes such vehicles to be operated at 25 mph or less on any road or street posted with a 35 mph maximum speed limit. Requires certain minimum safety equipment on utility terrain vehicles operating on the roadways and streets including signal lights, tail lights, break lights, reflectors, exterior mirrors, a safety glass windshield, wipers, a speedometer, an odometer, brakes for each wheel, seat belts, and a vehicle identification number.

Proposed law further requires registration of a utility terrain vehicle with the office of motor vehicles (OMV) as an off-road vehicle and requires display of a decal issued by the OMV. Prohibits operation by an unlicensed driver. Requires appropriate liability insurance. Allows the Dept. of Transportation and Development or parish or municipal governments to prohibit the operation of utility terrain vehicles on roads under their jurisdictions. Authorizes the promulgation of necessary rules by the OMV.

(Adds R.S. 32:299.3)