
DIGEST

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HB 592 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Chance Henry

Abstract: Authorizes the operation of utility terrain vehicles on parish or state roads and municipal streets statewide without the requirement of local designation.

Present law regulates the operation of off-road vehicles, including utility terrain vehicles (UTVs), on public roads. Present law prohibits UTVs from operating on parish roads or municipal streets unless designated by the parish or municipality.

Proposed law removes this requirement and authorizes registered UTVs to operate on parish roads and municipal streets statewide.

Present law requires UTVs to be equipped with safety features including headlights, taillights, brake lights, turn signals, mirrors, and seat belts. Present law imposes speed restrictions and other operational limitations. Present law requires operators to be at least 21 years old, hold a valid driver's license, and maintain proof of liability insurance.

Proposed law permits a governmental entity to regulate or restrict the operation of UTVs if signage is posted providing notice of the regulations.

Present law authorizes utility terrain vehicles to cross any divided highway, highway, roadway, or street with a posted street limit in excess of thirty-five miles per hour at an intersection.

Proposed law removes present law.

Present law requires UTVs to be equipped with safety features including headlights, taillights, brake lights, turn signals, mirrors, and seat belts.

Proposed law requires that the minimum motor vehicle equipment in UTVs be consistent with the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard, within federal law.

Present law requires UTVs be registered with the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C), office of motor vehicles (OMV), as an off road vehicle and display a registration decal issued by the OMV.

Proposed law requires UTVs be registered with the DPS&C, OMV and display proper registration from the OMV.

Proposed law authorizes the inclusion of a quick response code through the registration process that only law enforcement can use to access registration information. Specifies that this provision will not take effect until the department's system is updated to accommodate it.

Present law requires a person operating a UTV be at least 21 years old and possess a valid driver's license.

Proposed law removes the requirement that a UTV operator be at least 21 years of age.

(Amends R.S. 32:299.3(B)-(E))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Remove an authorization for utility terrain vehicles to cross any divided highway, highway, roadway, or street with a posted street limit in excess of thirty-five miles per hour at an intersection.
3. Provide for provisions to apply to registered utility terrain vehicles.
4. Add a provision for minimum motor vehicle equipment standards to align with certain federal standards.
5. Require registration of utility terrain vehicles have a QR code, and specify that this provision will take effect when the department's system is updated to accommodate the registration of utility terrain vehicles and the issuance of QR codes.
6. Remove minimum age requirement for operating a utility terrain vehicle.
7. Remove a requirement that a utility terrain vehicle be registered as an off-road vehicle and that the office of motor vehicles issue a decal.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes.