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## DIGEST

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HB 248 Reengrossed

2015 Regular Session

Lambert

**Abstract:** Authorizes the use of "golf carts" on certain roads.

Proposed law defines a "golf cart" as an electric four-wheeled vehicle originally intended for use off-road on golf courses and other green spaces whose maximum speed is 25 mph.

Proposed law prohibits the operation of golf carts on public roads, except as follows: (1) the operation of golf carts on parish and municipal roads if designated by a parish or municipal government and (2) golf carts used to cross public roads where there is a golf course constructed on both sides of the public road if Dept. of Transportation and Development (DOTD) approved the location and installed any traffic control devices needed for public safety.

Proposed law requires certain minimum safety equipment on golf carts operating on parish or municipal roads such as efficient brakes, a reliable steering apparatus, safe tires, a rearview mirror, and red reflectorized warning devices in both the front and rear of the vehicle.

Proposed law further requires registration of a golf cart with the office of motor vehicles (OMV) as an off-road vehicle and requires display of a decal issued by the OMV.

Proposed law restricts operation to a person with a valid driver's license. Also, requires appropriate liability insurance.

Proposed law authorizes a parish or municipal government to enact an ordinance that may be more restrictive relative to the operation of golf carts on parish or municipal roads and requires notification of the residents of an ordinance permitting the operation of golf carts on a parish or municipal road.

Proposed law creates an exemption, from the requirements of the bill, for municipal ordinances enacted prior to January 1, 2015.

Proposed law specifies that proposed law shall not restrict parish or municipal governments from prohibiting the operation of golf carts on parish roads or municipal streets for safety purposes.

Proposed law requires the promulgation of necessary rules by public safety services. Also, requires the rules and regulations be effective no later than January 15, 2016.

(Adds R.S. 32:299.3)

## 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. Change the application of proposed law from neighborhood vehicles to golf carts.
3. Delete a provision that specified that neighborhood vehicles may not operate at a speed exceeding 25 miles per hour on a roadway or street where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less.
4. Add provisions that proscribe the operation of golf carts on state roads except under the following circumstances: (1) the operation of golf carts on parish and municipal roads if designated by a parish or municipal government and (2) golf carts used to cross public roads where there is a golf course constructed on both sides of the public road if DOTD approved the location and installed any traffic control devices needed for public safety.
5. Add a provision that requires golf carts be safely equipped before operating on a parish or municipal road.
6. Modify a provision that required neighborhood vehicles operating on a public road be registered with the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, OMV by changing the application to golf carts.
7. Add a provision that restricts the application of proposed law to parish and municipal roads.
8. Delete a provision that granted DOTD the authority to prohibit the operation of neighborhood vehicles on public roads if necessary for public safety.
9. Add a provision that authorizes a parish or municipal government to enact an ordinance that is more restrictive and to notify residents of the ordinance allowing the operation of golf carts on a parish or municipal road.
10. Delete a provision that allowed the OMV to promulgate rules for operation of neighborhood vehicles on public roads and instead provides such authority to the DOTD, public safety services.
11. Add a provision that requires the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services to promulgate rules for the operation of golf carts on parish and municipal roads by Jan. 1, 2016.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Clarify a provision that requires a golf cart to be operated on a parish road or municipal street with a valid driver's license.
3. Add an exemption, from the requirements of the bill, for municipal ordinances enacted prior to January 1, 2015.